

State of Georgia

County of Henry

The Henry County Board of Elections and Registration held a Regular Public Meeting via Zoom at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 7, 2021. Notice of this meeting was posted in the entrance foyer of the Elections and Registration Building and on the County website. The Daily Herald was notified of this meeting. Those present were:

Donna McBride, Chair and Democratic Party Appointee

Andy Callaway, Vice Chair and Republican Party Appointee

Arch Brown, Board of Commissioners Appointee

Donna Crumbley, Republican Party Appointee

Mildred Schmelz, Democratic Party Appointee

Also in attendance: Director Ameika Pitts, Staff Terrika Davis, County Attorney Patrick Jaugstetter, Staff Brook Schreiner, and County Attorney Sam VanVolkenburgh.

I. Call to Order

Chair McBride called the meeting to order.

II. Acceptance of the Agenda

Vice Chair Callaway made the motion to accept the agenda. Board Member Schmelz seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

III. Acceptance of the February and March Minutes

Board Member Schmelz made the motion to accept February 3, 2021 minutes, February 11, 2021 minutes, February 25, 2021 minutes, March

3, 2021 minutes, and March 24, 2021 minutes. Board Member Crumbley seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

IV. Director Report

- A. Director Pitts stated that she had spoken with the Paralegal of Smith and Welch Law Firm, Mary Schlack. Ms. Schlack requested a copy of the certification form that had to be submitted to the Secretary of State for the ESLPOST election along with the March 24, 2021 minutes where the Board accepted the certification of the election. Director Pitts said that following this meeting, she would forward Ms. Schlack the information. Director Pitts stated that March 30, 2021, John Penn, who is with Leisure and Public Services in Henry County, requested that she send him a recommendation to raise the Board of Elections current compensation. She continued stated after speaking to surrounding counties that she did recommend an increase of \$250 a month as well as \$50 per special call meeting. Director Pitts stated that she did speak with Mr. Matthews on the new facility. She said they are in the process of choosing a contractor out of the bids that were submitted.
- B. Director Pitts said that she received a request from Vice Chair Callaway about the polling locations in each district and all of February and March minutes. Vice Chair Callaway said that he did receive everything.

V. Old Business

- A. Chair McBride asked for an update from Attorney Jaugstetter on securing the funds from the ESPLOST election. Attorney Jaugstetter stated that the Board of Commissioners have not authorized the filing of the lawsuit. He stated that he did make the Board of Elections aware that the Board of Commissioners has to accept the lawsuit before proceeding. Attorney Jaugstetter said that he received an email requesting Director Pitts get the total cost of the ESPLOST election to Attorney Jaugstetter so he may generate an invoice and submit that to the Board of Education to get a formal denial. Attorney Jaugstetter stated that he would present it to the Board of Commissioners to see if this will prompt any changes. Chair McBride asked if the Board of Commissioners have been informed of the lawsuit. Attorney Jaugstetter said that he has informed the Board of

Commissioners, but it has not been presented on the agenda. Chair McBride asked when the Board of Commissioners were informed of the lawsuit. Attorney Jaugstetter said that he shared the memorandum with them in February. Board Member Schmelz asked if Attorney Jaugstetter was permitted to share his recommendations that have been made to the Board of Elections with the Board of Commissioners, in regards to the ESPLOST referendum. Attorney Jaugstetter stated that the referendum was made out to both the Board of Elections and Board of Commissioners. Director Pitts asked when Attorney Jaugstetter needed the total charges of the ESLPOST election. Attorney Jaugstetter said as soon as possible. Director Pitts stated that she would get it to him by close of business Thursday, April 8, 2021.

VI. New Business

- A. Director Pitts spoke of the polling locations that the elections office can no longer use. She stated that Pates Creek- Jodeco Methodist Church decided they no longer wanted to be a polling location and that the office did get permission to use Community Bible Church as a permanent location. Board Member Crumbley made the motion to make Community Bible Church the new Pates Creek polling location. Board Member Schmelz seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0. Director Pitts stated that Dutchtown- First Baptist Church, West Campus no longer will be a polling location. She stated that the office has reached out to Mt. Olive Baptist Church and they have agreed to be the new Dutchtown polling location. Board Member Crumbley made the motion to make Mt. Olive Baptist Church the new Dutchtown polling location. Board Member Schmelz seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0. Director Pitts stated that Wesley Lakes- Griffin First Assembly Church in McDonough no longer will be a polling location. She continued stating that the office has reached out to New Covenant and they will not allow us to use their facility. Director Pitts stated that they are no other facilities in this area, and that the office has spoken with Superintendent Davis in letting the office use Wesley Lakes Elementary School for June 15, 2021 only and she agreed. Board Member Crumbley made the motion to use Wesley Lakes Elementary School for June 15, 2021 only. Vice Chair Callaway seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0. Director Pitts stated that McMullen-Sharon Baptist Church will be having a vacation bible camp during the week

of the June 15, 2021 election and that the office will not be able to use them for this election and that Superintendent Davis is allowing the office to use Ola Elementary School for the June 15, 2021 election. Chair McBride made the motion to use Ola Elementary School for the June 15, 2021 election only. Board Member Schmelz seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0. Director Pitts stated that the office is still looking for a permanent polling location for McDonough Central and the office has a scheduled phone appointment with Southern Crescent College to see if they can be a polling location. Chair McBride made the motion to permit the office to look into Southern Crescent College as a permanent polling location. Vice Chair Callaway seconded. The motion carried 4-0-1, with Board Member Schmelz abstaining. Board Member Schmelz asked Director Pitts if she feels that she will be able to find a permanent polling location for Wesley Lakes precinct. Director Pitts stated that her hopes were to get approval from the Board to use what the office could for the June 15, 2021 election so the office can keep searching for a permanent facility. Chair McBride asked Director Pitts to keep the Board updated.

- B. Director Pitts stated that there will be a special election on June 15, 2021. She continued stating that she will get the resolution out to the Board, and hold a special call meeting before April 26, 2021 to vote on it. Chair McBride asked the Board Members to look at the date of April 20, 2021 to hold the special call meeting and email her.

VII. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

VIII. Board Comments

The Board Members made their comments.

IX. Announcement of Next Meeting- May 5, 2021

Chair McBride announced that the next meeting will be May 5, 2021.

X. Adjournment

Vice Chair Callaway made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Board Member Crumbley seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.