

## State of Georgia

### County of Henry

The Henry County Board of Elections and Registration held a Regular Public Meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020, held on Zoom Meeting. 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:

Dan Richardson, Chair and Republican Party Appointee

Donna McBride, Vice Chair and Democratic Party Appointee

Arch Brown, Board of Commissioners Appointee

Andy Callaway, Republican Party Appointee

Mildred Schmelz, Democratic Party Appointee

Also attending was: Director Ameika Pitts, Grayson Davis, Terrika Davis, and Brook Schreiner.

#### **I.     Call to Order**

Chair Richardson called the meeting to order.

#### **II.    Acceptance of the Agenda**

Board Member Brown made the motion to accept the agenda; Board Member Schmelz seconded. The motion carried 3-0-0.

#### **III.   Board approval of the minutes**

Board Member Schmelz made the motion to accept the April minutes; Board Member Brown seconded. The motion carried 3-0-0.

#### **IV. Old Business**

- A. Chair Richardson updated the Board of the grant funds that are available. Director Pitts stated that there are three tiers to the grant: general, handicap, and security. She continued saying that there is a max amount for each tier, but the max amount the office may receive is \$15,000, but the office is in the position to get \$10,000. Chair Richardson asked Director Pitts if she could update the Board of the drop boxes for the Absentee Ballots. Director Pitts said that she looked into different drop boxes that have a lot of space. Vice Chair McBride asked how secure the drop box would be. Director Pitts said it will be in the entrance area and it will be mounted to the wall and the ballots will be dropped down into the box. Board Member Schmelz suggested to have the drop box mounted inside of the office and have a slot to the drop box on the outside of the building so it will be more secure. The Board discussed further and Chair Richardson asked Director Pitts to speak with maintenance and email the Board Members with an update.
- B. Director Pitts stated that the Absentee Ballots coming in decreased, but then increased again. She continued stating that 152 ballots were sent out from the office, and we received 25,120 ballots in the mail. She then stated that the office had completed and processed 6.63% of those ballots and that more staff was brought to be able to speed up the process. Board Member Schmelz asked where are in terms of the 4,000 Absentee Applications returned due to a wrong address. Director Pitts stated that for those that had a forwarding address then they got sent back out to the correct address, and for those that didn't have a forwarding address, the office would compare the application to the ElectionNet and if the person moved to a different county or state, then the office would make the county aware so that way the person would have the opportunity to vote by mail. The Board discussed further and Chair Richardson encouraged the Board Members to stay up to date on the Buzz as they continue providing

updates with the ballot tracker. Chair Richardson stated that the post office is delivering the Absentee Ballots without postage and asked Director Pitts how much does the office owe the post office. Director Pitts said that she has reached out to the post office to get an amount, but as of right now there is no amount. Chair Richardson stated that the State doesn't intend on paying the cost of postage and that will come out of the offices budget. Board Member Schmelz suggested that once the office gets an amount, to negotiate the amount. Chair Richardson echoed the suggestion.

- C. Director Pitts said that a list was given to the County Manager and Fleet Maintenance of items needed. She continued stating that things are getting delivered every other day now. Chair Richardson stated that while on the State conference call, they mentioned that for those counties in need of PPE, the State would distribute some PPE out to those Counties, and that this responsibility resides at the County level. Chair Richardson mentioned that he had been conversing with Director Pitts about a supplier called Global Watch Dog Inc., and they can provide hand held thermometers, gloves, lint free alcohol wipes, sanitizer, and face shields and masks. The Board discussed further.

## **V. Supervisor Report**

- A. Director Pitts spoke on the precincts for the upcoming election. She stated that all are willing to do this election except for two precincts that the office is awaiting confirmation from which are Red Oak and McDonough Central.
- B. Director Pitts spoke on how the managers of each precinct contact their poll workers to confirm their availability for June 9, 2020 and we are good to go. She continued mentioning that four managers are needed for Ellenwood, Lake Haven, McDonough Central, and Timberridge precincts. Brook stated that Assistant Manager positions are all filled. Director Pitts stated that she is going to speak with the County Manager and Deputy County Manager in letting other Henry County workers in other departments to help with the Absentee Ballots and possibly be poll

workers. The Board discussed further and Chair Richardson suggested to increase the number of poll workers on standby.

## **VI. New Business**

- A. I) Chair Richardson stated that the State-of-Emergency will expire soon and with that in mind, for June and July, have in person meetings, but still enforce social distancing. Director Pitts mentioned that she spoke with the County Manager and the Deputy County Manager and they said the conference room B in the Administration Building is available.
- II) Board Member Schmelz suggested that the June meeting still be through Zoom and not in person. Vice Chair McBride agreed with Board Member Schmelz in doing a Zoom meeting for the June meeting as well. Board Member Schmelz encouraged citizens who are not able to make public comments during the virtual meetings to reach out to the Board Members with their comments and concerns. Chair Richardson echoed Board Member Schmelz.
- B. Director Pitts spoke on this in section 'V. Supervisor Report. B'.

## **VII. Announcement- Next board meeting on June 3, 2020**

Chair Richardson announced that the next meeting would be June 3, 2020.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

Vice Chair McBride stepped away from the meeting. Chair Richardson made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Board Member Callaway seconded; the motion carried 4-0-0.