

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, September 11th, 2019, in the Conference Room, of the Elections and Registrations Building, 40 Atlanta Street, McDonough, Georgia. Notice of this meeting was posted in the entrance foyer of the Elections and Registration Building. 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

Andy Callaway, Republican Party Appointee

Mildred Schmelz, Democratic Party Appointee

Arch Brown, Board of Commissioners Appointed

Also attending was: Tina Lunsford, Elections and Registration Supervisor, Grayson Davis, Terrika Davis, and Barbara Jessop.

I. Call to Order

Chair Richardson called the meeting to order.

II. Acceptance of the Agenda

Chair Richardson called for the acceptance of the agenda. Board Member Schmelz made the motion to accept the agenda; Vice Chair McBride seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

III. Approval of the August minutes

Chair Richardson called for the acceptance of the July minutes. Board Member Callaway made the motion to accept the minutes; Vice Chair McBride seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

IV. Population growth in Henry County

Chair Richardson introduced Stacey Jordan-Rudeseal, from Henry County's Zoning and Planning Department.

Stacey updated the Board regarding the population growth and new developments in Henry County. He stated that they are working on a method to transmit the data to the Director of the Elections Department. Stacey said that Henry County is one of the fastest-growing counties in the state with approximately 6,100 new residents a year. He informed the board that new development is being planned and distributed evenly throughout the county. The Board thanked Stacey for attending and providing an update.

V. Old Business

Chair Richardson asked the Director for an update on the Municipal Elections Communication Plan. The Director provided a packet to the Board that contained an updated list of all the locations that agreed to post the notice of polling place changes. She stated that the packet also contained the status with each apartment and church that the office contacted. Board Member Schmelz requested for the packet to be updated to reflect the Water Authority agreeing to post the notice.

Chair Richardson stated that Vice Chair McBride was requested to present at a political forum for preachers at the Tabernacle of Praise. He stated that he attended the event as Vice Chair McBride was unable to attend. He informed the Board that the fact that municipal voters would have to attend two (2) locations was a major part of the event. Chair Richardson distributed a document that has talking points in reference to municipal voters having two (2) voting locations.

Chair Richardson asked if the Board Members had any comments in regards to the tour of the polling locations. The Board stated that the tour was useful to check for ADA compliance and to verify that there was plenty of parking.

Chair Richardson stated that the proposed legislation change was sent to the commissioners, including the chair. He requested for other Board Members to approach their County Commissioner in support of the legislation. The Board discussed and requested for the County Attorney, County Manager, and Deputy County Manager to be informed and sent the proposed legislative changes.

VI. New Business

Chair Richardson informed the Board that he had a meeting with the Finance Director, Finance Manager, Purchasing Manager, and Budget Liaison regarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Penske. Vice Chair McBride was not able to attend. He stated that he was informed that the Board will require a Request for Quotes (RFQ) and that the Purchasing Department was working on it. He noted that this process would require three (3) bids. The Board discussed the process and requirements. Chair Richardson distributed a document that listed the process for new vendors to contract with Henry County. The Board inquired if there was an estimated time for the RFQ. The Director stated that it would be a lengthy process. She stated that the RFQ will have to be precise and that currently, the office doesn't know the dimensions for the new voting equipment.

Chair Richardson requested an update on the new voting equipment from the Director. The Director stated that Chris Harvey posts updates each Tuesday on Firefly. She noted that the office would be receiving approximately 700 units and printers after the November Election. The Director stated that the office would have to have storage planned and ready by the February training. The Board inquired the cost to the county. The Director stated that the security paper for the ballots would cost \$0.13 per ballot. She stated the estimated cost for a small election to be \$17,000 and a large election to be \$50,000. The Board discussed and asked when the budget process starts. The Director stated that the budget process begins in January.

Chair Richardson Stated that he attended a public forum in Fayette that covered the new voting equipment. He stated that it was very informative. He also stated that each county would have \$50,000 to help educate the public on the new voting units. The Board discussed having an education plan in place. Chair Richardson made the motion to appoint Vice Chair McBride to work with the Director and staff on the development of the education and communication regarding the new voting machines; Board Member Schmelz seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.

VII. Supervisor Report

The Director distributed a list of the candidates that qualified for office in the municipal elections. She stated that the office is currently waiting for the state's ballot builders to provide the initial ballot to proof.

The Director updated the Board regarding the election for the office of Tax Commissioner. She stated that the Governor appointed Michael Harris as Tax Commissioner until December 31, 2020. She stated that the County Attorney contacted the state and informed the office that the election should be cancelled. Board Member Schmelz referenced article 14, code section 21-2-540 and asked why the Board didn't make the decision. The Director stated that she would provide a copy of the reason by the County Attorney.

The Director updated the Board on the additional early voting at the Stockbridge Municipal Court Building. She stated that the City of Stockbridge had agreed to have early voting for three (3) weeks. The Board discussed the change in early voting and inquired whether the City of Hampton decided to have more early voting days. The Director stated that they decided to have only one (1) week of early voting. Chair Richardson went on the record to state that there are two (2) elections, a municipal and county. He then stated that the cities dictate how many weeks of early voting they want and the city pays the expenses. The Board discussed and asked if the City of Hampton could change their decision. Chair Richardson made the motion to approach the Fortson Library and ask if the Library is still available, and if it is to let the City of Hampton know that the Board of Elections wants to open early voting at the library for more time; Vice Chair

McBride seconded. The Board discussed the motion on the floor. The Board discussed increasing early voting times when the City of Hampton decided to only have one week and the county covering the expenses. The motion failed 0-3-2; with Chair Richardson and Board Member Callaway abstaining.

The Director stated that herself and staff presented at the Henry County Citizen's Academy. She stated that the 13 people in attendance were interested in the process and asked several questions. The Board discussed and decided that Board Members should be present for the next Citizen's Academy. The Director stated that the Secretary of State's Office asked for counties to notify them of any events around the state that they could host a demonstration on the new voting equipment at. The Board discussed and inquired when Henry County would be receiving the new voting equipment. The Director stated that Henry County would be one of the last counties to receive the equipment and to expect it to arrive in December.

VIII. Public Comments

Barbara Jessop spoke on the subject of the Board of Elections and a new facility.

IX. Board Members closing remarks

The Board made their closing remarks.

X. Chair closing remarks

Chair Richardson made his closing remarks.

XI. Announcement – Next board meeting on October 2, 2019

Chair Richardson announced the date, time, and location of the next meeting.

XII. Adjournment

Board Member Callaway made the motion to adjourn; Board Member Schmelz seconded. The motion carried 5-0-0.