

RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES 09-08-2020

Chairman Bill Freytag called the meeting to order in the Lower Level Classroom at the Longview Center at 3:00 P.M. on Tuesday September 8th, 2020. The Roll Call was as follows: Bill Freytag, present, Joseph H. Mudra, present, Lydia Reid, present, and Karen Browning, present. Also present at this meeting were Director Paulette Hankins and Deputy Director Jane Zimmermann.

Chairman Freytag asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the 08-04-2020 regular meeting. Mrs. Browning made the motion to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Reid and passed by voice vote 3-0 with one abstention. Mr. Mudra did not vote since he was excused for the last meeting. Director Hankins next reviewed the bills for the month of August in the amount of \$53,922.42 from the General Fund, and \$48,056.89 from the CARES Grant Fund, and two pay periods totaling \$28,584.55. A motion to approve the bills as presented was made by Mr. Mudra, seconded by Mrs. Browning and passed by voice vote 4-0. Director Hankins reviewed the CARES grant expenditures and progress report, and Deputy Director Zimmermann reviewed the HAVA grant expenditures and progress report to date.

Under old business, Director Hankins stated that Troy Lanier from ESS had informed her through an email that the certification process had taken place and that we should be receiving approval soon to upgrade all of our EP's to facilitate the creation of the audio cards for the ICX units. She also informed the board members that Dominion was proceeding to the certification process within the week and were hoping to have their VC Programmer comparable application ready in time for Early Voting in October.

Under new business, Director Hankins reviewed the Public Test as conducted by Democrat Debbie Obenour, Election Specialist V/IT Support Tech and Republican Election Specialist 1 Daniel O'Brien. Director Hankins explained the reports as follows: the first report was the zero report demonstrating that no totals were in the tabulating system computer. The next report showed the total test votes cast in Man 2-A precinct, which has no splits. The next report showed the total test votes cast in the Plymouth precinct which has 4 splits. The next report showed the total test votes cast in Wash-D precinct, which has 4 splits. The next report was a summary of all 3 precincts, and the final report was a zero report showing that the tabulation computer had been set back to all zeros so that no test votes would be in the system when we start tabulating the L & A results. A motion to approve the results of the programming and tabulation of the Public Test was made by Mr. Mudra. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Browning and passed unanimously by voice vote 4-0.

Deputy Director Zimmermann informed the board members that the Wishmaker Bed & Breakfast filed a local option petition on September 5th with 421 signatures. The minimum number of valid signatures needed was 310. After verifying the signatures, there were only 271 valid signatures. A motion to invalidate the petition due to an insufficient number of valid signatures was made by Mr. Mudra, seconded by Mrs. Browning and passed unanimously by voice vote 4-0. Deputy Director Jane Zimmermann also informed the board that two levies were inadvertently omitted from the original list of Issues due to a clerical error. Springfield Township Fire Department had filed two questions for the November ballot but the clerk who wrote the receipt had placed them in the campaign finance reports bin instead of giving them to one of the Directors. A motion to approve these two issues for the November 3rd, 2020 ballot was made by Mr. Mudra, seconded by Mrs. Browning and passed unanimously by voice vote 4-0.

The next item of new business was the relocation of the voting location for precincts Shl 4-A and 4-B. Mrs. Browning made the motion to move the location from the Kehoe Center to the Awake Church, 3616 St. Rt. 39 in Shelby. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Reid and passed unanimously by voice vote 4-0. The Directors informed the board members that the registered voters had been notified and a press release had been issued, along with social media notifications.

The Directors informed the board members that experienced poll workers will have the option of choosing either an online training session or in-person Station Training. They added that all new poll workers would be required to attend the in-person training sessions. The next discussion was concerning the feasibility of having the PJ or VLM ride back to the board office to return the ballots and supplies Election night in the same vehicle. Due to COVID concerns, and the guidance from the Richland County Health Department, Chairman Bill Freytag made a motion to allow an option for the poll workers to either return the supplies in the same vehicle, or for one to follow the other in separate vehicles. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mudra and passed unanimously by voice vote 4-0.

The Directors next informed the board members that no local write-in candidates had filed to go on the ballot in November by the August 24th deadline. Several write-ins for President and Vice-President, including Brian Carroll and Amar Patel, Tom Hoefling and Andy Prior, Dario Hunter and Dawn Neptune Adams, Jade Simmons and Candeliah J. Roze, Kasey Wells and Rachel Wells, and President R19 Boddie and Eric Stoneham.

The Observer's Code of Conduct was reviewed next, with the Health Guidelines as ordered by the Secretary of State added. A motion was offered by Mr. Mudra to approve the revised policy as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Browning and passed unanimously by voice vote 4-0. A motion was then made by Mr. Mudra to allow staff members to trade the October 12th Columbus Day Holiday for the day after Thanksgiving. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Browning and passed unanimously by voice vote 4-0.

Under Other Business, Director Hankins distributed the Winter Conference information and asked the board members to let the Directors know if they would be attending the in-person conference or the online version. She stated that registration fees would need to be paid for anyone attending the in-person version. Deputy Director Jane Zimmermann informed the board that she was discussing with Triad to convert our website to a different format to allow the public to access files and reports online. She also stated that an informational message was now programmed into the phone system to greet all callers and try to answer some of the most common questions without speaking to an actual staff member.

With no further business to come before the board, Mr. Mudra made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Reid, and passed by voice vote 4-0. Chairman Freytag adjourned the meeting at 3:42 P.M.

Date approved _____

Bill Freytag

Joseph H. Mudra

Lydia J. Reid

Karen J. Browning

Attest:

Paulette Hankins

Jane Zimmermann