

**RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES 12-09-2020**

At 1:45 p.m., prior to the Regular Meeting, the Board of Elections staff, including Directors Paulette Hankins and Jane Zimmermann, and Board Members Bill Freytag, Karen Browning and Lydia Reid, viewed a demonstration of the Tenex Electronic Poll Books presented by Bradley Campbell and Maggie Roberts. This presentation concluded at 3:00 p.m. and was held in the Upper Level Classroom at the Longview Center.

Chairman Bill Freytag called the meeting to order in the Upper Level Classroom at the Longview Center at 3:00 P.M. on Tuesday December 8<sup>th</sup>, 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, and guest Jane McGinty, a Voting Location Manager from Lincoln Heights Church.

Chairman Freytag asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the 11-16-2020 through 11-18-2020 regular meeting. Mr. Mudra made the motion to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Browning and passed unanimously by voice vote 4-0. Director Hankins next reviewed the bills for the month of November in the amount of \$101,878.16 from the General Fund, \$82,943.96 from the salary line item, and reviewed the CARES grant report and Security and Accessibility report. A motion to approve the bills and reports as presented was made by Mr. Mudra, seconded by Mrs. Browning and passed unanimously by voice vote 4-0.

No business was brought up under old business.

Under new business, Director Hankins reviewed the results of the Audit conducted after the November Election. She stated that Jackson A & B and Monroe A & B had been selected for the audit and that after comparing the paper audit trail to the computer generated totals, the accuracy rate was 100%. She also added that it had taken 8 staff members (4 teams of a Republican and a Democratic worker) 8 days to complete the audit. A motion to approve the results and sign the documentation was made by Mr. Mudra. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Browning and passed unanimously by voice vote 4-0.

The next item of business was the recognition of guest Jane McGinty, who had contacted the Chairman and asked to be allowed a spot on the agenda. Mrs. McGinty, who was the Voting Location Manager at Lincoln Heights Church in the Madison area, stated that the reason she was present was to present her side of the story concerning an episode which occurred at her voting location. She stated that Asa, who was one of her new poll workers, had gone outside the polling place at approximately 7:15 p.m. to take something to her car. While she was outside, a man had gotten out of his car and told her he had COVID-19 and that he wanted to vote curbside and handed her his driver’s license. The poll worker brought the license inside and informed the other workers that the man requested to vote. Mrs. McGinty overheard part of the conversation and asked for the details. Upon hearing the details, she stated that neither Asa nor any of the other poll workers could go out to vote him. Mrs. McGinty stated that she didn’t trust the man, and that she wouldn’t allow any of her workers to go out and vote him. She added that if he had the virus, he should have been quarantined at home. She stated that she called our office and talked to Jane Zimmermann, the Deputy Director, and then called 911 for the deputies to come to the location. Deputy Director Zimmermann asked Mrs. McGinty if she remembered taking the oath of office, and also that she had checked off the training station for the PPE guidelines at our Station Training. Mrs. McGinty stated that she did remember that, but she wasn’t going to risk the health or safety of her workers or herself. Paulette Hankins asked Mrs. McGinty why she had called the Sheriff from the voting location, and then also was pursuing filing charges or making a report with Captain Sweat when she returned her voting supplies after the close of polls, and why she sent the other poll worker, Asa, home early. Mrs. McGinty replied that she wondered why the deputies had not shown up at the location, and later found out that they had talked to the Rover, Matt Finfgeld, who told them they were not needed. The Rover had arrived at the voting location and had voted the man from his vehicle, along with the poll worker, Asa. Chairman Freytag added that the bottom line stressed at all training sessions and in all correspondence was the fact that we cannot deny any person their constitutional right to vote. Board Member Karen Browning stated that over 70 curbside ballots had been issued throughout the county for this election, and that it had not been an issue at any other location. Chairman Freytag asked the other board members if they had any other questions or comments, and asked Mrs. McGinty if she had anything further to add. Mrs. McGinty thanked the board for their time and for allowing her to explain her actions. Chairman Freytag thanked her for coming and reiterated that everyone has a constitutional right to vote.

The next item of business was the review of the poll worker evaluations. Director Hankins stated that due to the lengthy audit and the staggered work schedules, the evaluations had not yet been finalized for the board’s review.

Next on the agenda, Director Hankins distributed a list of the offices up for Election in the May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Primary. The board members next discussed the next meeting date. It was the consensus of the board members that we cancel the regularly scheduled board meeting in December. It was also decided upon to arrange a Zoom platform meeting sometime during the month of December if needed, or in January, to test this medium for possible use in the future. The Directors agreed that they would work on getting this platform set up.

Under other business, Deputy Director Zimmermann stated that she had received a letter from Commissioner Marilyn John that she would be resigning her position as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. A motion to accept the resignation and file the documentation in our records was made by Mrs. Browning, seconded by Mr. Mudra and passed unanimously by voice vote 4-0.

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 3:24 P.M.

Date approved \_\_\_\_\_

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Bill Freytag

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Joseph H. Mudra

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Lydia J. Reid

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Karen J. Browning

Attest:  
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Paulette Hankins

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Jane Zimmermann