

MACON-BIBB COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
2525 PIO NONO AVE., STE 1200 MACON, GA 31206
JULY 18, 2019

Board Members Present: Dr. Henry Ficklin, Mr. Mike Kaplan, Mrs. Rinda Wilson, Mr. Herbert Spangler and Ms. Cassandra Powell

Staff Present: Mrs. Jeanetta Watson, Elections Supervisor, Mrs. Veronica Seals, Chief Registrar, Ms. Charlene Maynard, Administrative Assistant and Mr. Thomas Gillon, Elections Officer

Board of Elections' Attorney: Mr. William Noland

Visitors Present: Sam Kitchens, Executive Director of Capitol Programs, Bibb County School Board, Claudia Kirkwood, League of Women's Voters, A. Khondoker, ACLU of GA, Sandy Tharpe, Peter F. Taylor, Jr., Bibb County Democratic Party, John Cusick, NAACP LDF, Ada Montgomery, WGXA, Carolyn Hargrove, League of Women's Voters

CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Henry Ficklin, Chairperson, called the regular meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Kaplan made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 27, 2019 Regular Board Meeting. Mr. Spangler, seconded. Dr. Ficklin, Mrs. Wilson and Ms. Powell agreed. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A) Mrs. Watson will present an update concerning the cargo van after it has been inspected and approved by the Vehicle Maintenance Department.
- B) Mrs. Watson informed the Board that Ms. Laura Mathis, Executive Director for the Middle Georgia Regional Commission informed her that she has not completed the research concerning a policies and procedures manual for the Board of Elections.
- C) Mrs. Watson provided a report on behalf of the Postmaster Committee. She stated Ms. Lisa Payton who is the Political Mail Coordinator for the Metro Atlanta area stated according to our zip code the post office servicing the Board of Elections office is the Rocky Creek location. She provided the postmaster's name and contact number. Mrs. Watson will provide an update once contact has been made.
- D) Mrs. Watson informed the Board that Mr. Michael McNeil, County Attorney, recommended that elections records do not require a formal open records request be made through the county clerk of commission who is the designated open records officer for Macon-Bibb County. After discussion, Mr. William Noland, County Attorney, will follow up with Mr. Keith Moffett, Macon-Bibb County CEO, concerning election documents as they relate to open records request.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A) Mrs. Watson provided the Board with a Resolution from the Bibb County School District requesting for the Board to Call and conduct an E-SPLOST election to be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2019. An agreement between the Macon-Bibb County Board of Elections and the Bibb County School District for payment of all election expenses incurred was also provided.

Mr. Kaplan made a motion to amend the agenda to include item (A) under New Business as an action item. Mrs. Wilson seconded. Mr. Spangler, Dr. Ficklin and Ms. Powell agreed. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kaplan made a motion to approve the Board of Elections to Call and conduct a Special Election for the Bibb County Board of Education to be held Tuesday, November 5, 2019. Mrs. Wilson, seconded. Dr. Ficklin, Mr. Spangler and Ms. Powell agreed. The motion passed unanimously.

- B) Mrs. Watson informed the Board that law permits us to have a polling place outside of a precinct; however, you cannot create a precinct that has noncontiguous boundaries or portions that do not touch. A noncontiguous precinct boundary line was inadvertently created between old precinct Hazzard 5 (HA5) and Howard 1 (HO1) when the Hephzibah Children's home located at 6601 Zebulon Rd, Macon, GA 31220 which was polling location for HA5 closed before the 2018 May Primary. We merged the HA5 voters with Northway Church located at 5915 Zebulon Rd, Macon, GA 31210 which is the polling location for HO1; however, we crossed over the boundary line for Howard 2 (HO2) in the process which made the boundary line from the old precinct HA5 and precinct HO1 noncontiguous.

After much discussion, Dr. Ficklin requested Mrs. Watson to prepare a proposal which will fix the noncontiguous precinct boundaries and, also include a plan which would reduce the high number of voters assigned to the Howard 3 (HO3) polling location which is Turning Point at Mable White. The Board agreed. Mrs. Watson will present a proposal for approval at the August Board meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

A) Correspondence

- a. Monthly Supervisors Report
- b. A Resolution of the Bibb County School District (E-SPLOST)
- c. Agreement between the Macon-Bibb County Board of Elections and the Bibb County School District for election expenses
- d. List of late and delinquent filers of personal disclosure reports

B) Items from the Chief Registrar – Veronica Seals

Mrs. Seals provided the Board with the following updates concerning voter registration totals as of July 18, 2019.

- a. Active 106,177 Inactive - 5,717 Combined Total – 111,894
- b. ElectionNet Voter Registration Dashboard Report (Registrations to be processed)
 - i. 771 DDS Department Driver Services Applications
 - ii. 0 OLVR – Online Voter Registration Applications
 - iii. 221 Pending Voters
 - iv. 1,091 Verification of Non-Matched Pending Voters

- C) Items from the Elections Officer – Thomas Gillon
 - a. Mr. Gillon provided the Board with the list of candidates/elected officials whose names have been reported to the GA Government Transparency & Campaign Finance Commission as a late or delinquent filer of personal disclosure and campaign contribution disclosure reports.

- D) Items from the Board Members
 - There was none.

- E) Items from the County Attorney
 - a. Mr. Noland will provide the Board with information concerning the possibility of implementing a policy to request outside agencies to remit payment to the Board of Elections for conduct of their elections even when those elections are held in conjunction with a primary, general or special election.
 - b. Mr. Noland provided an update concerning when the election is to be held for State Court Judge due to vacancy. The constitution states all judicial vacancies are to be filled by the Governor. After the Governor makes an appointment, an election is to be held at the next General Election date within six months after the appointment.
 - c. Mr. Noland informed the Board that the opinion of Ms. Crystal Jones, Assistant County Attorney, is the Elections Supervisor position is subject for review. Forms are available through the Human Resources Department.

- F) Items from the Supervisor
 - There was none.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Kaplan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:04 p.m. Mr. Spangler seconded. Dr. Ficklin, Mrs. Wilson and Ms. Powell agreed. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes transcribed by Jeanetta Watson