



GLYNN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Meeting, September 10, 2019

The September meeting of the Board of Elections and Registration was called to order by Chairman Gibson at 10 a.m.

Present were Patricia Gibson, Chairman; Sandy Dean, Vice Chairman; Keith Rustin, Secretary; Tommy Clark, Member; Patricia Featherstone, Member; Christopher Channell, Supervisor; Christina Redden, Assistant Supervisor; Taylor Cooper, The Brunswick News; Audrey Gibbons; Mario Pacella; Joy Turner; Leslie Schomber; Lavonia Clark

Chairman Gibson welcomed the public visitors in attendance. A moment of silence was held for former Board Member Jack Conyers.

Public Comment

Ms. Gibbons addressed the Board regarding Sunday early voting. Ms. Gibbons described the increasing state and county trend in early voting, noting in November 2018 more than half of the votes cast were early voters. There may be even greater turn-out in 2020. Ms. Gibbons believes complaints about early voting access could be addressed by adding Sunday voting.

Chairman Gibson thanked Ms. Gibbons for speaking. The Board has already opted for extended early voting hours on Mondays but will take Ms. Gibbons' statement into consideration.

Approval of Minutes of August 13, 2019 Regular Board Meeting

The minutes were approved 5-0.

Old Business

Update on the New Voting Machines

There is no news about delivery dates for the new machines and pick-up of the old machines. 2020 Poll worker training and the public information campaign cannot be developed until the new machines arrive. There will be a need to coordinate the delivery and storage due to the expected Municipal run-off in December which will involve some of the old machines.

The list of "pilot counties" using the new machines this November has decreased to seven. Lowndes County is now the closest site to observe the machines in use during early voting.

Polling Locations Update

The Burroughs-Molette polling location was not changed and will remain at Mt. Zion for the upcoming election. New options were recently presented and each location will be evaluated for ADA compliance. A recommendation will be made after the Municipal election.

The State has pushed back against combining Satilla Marsh and Marshes of Glynn into one polling location. These two precincts are very active on election day and combining into one precinct is also not a viable option. Mr. Channell recommends the revenue-neutral option to keep two separate locations, moving the Satilla Marsh precinct to CenterPoint Church and moving the



Marshes of Glynn precinct to the Brookman Community Building. The Marshes of Glynn precinct could also stay in place or move to Bay Harbor church.

The Public Works department opposes the use of county community buildings for voting, especially using the Ballard site for three weeks of early voting during each 2020 election. Use of the Brookman site for election day is also in dispute. Mr. Channell is working with the County Manager to resolve this issue and the Board will offer support if necessary.

New Business

Office Report

Hurricane Dorian disrupted the scanning project but it is now over 52% complete.

Six candidates qualified for the Municipal Election and a runoff is expected for the North Ward.

The State will not provide voting booths or carts to support the new equipment. The county will be expected to purchase tables or carts and will need between nine and eleven tables per precinct. Mr. Channell will survey precincts to determine available tables, but this cost may be significant.

Mr. Channell presented the office financial data. Board members expressed a desire to revise the county's standard reports to include a better budget breakdown and monthly actuals. Ms. Featherstone and Mr. Channell were tasked to design a financial report to meet those needs.

Board Member Comments

Ms. Featherstone had three comments. First, an inquiry about hurricane and emergency procedures. The county has written procedures to ensure the safety of voting equipment and records. The State would give the county legal direction should a hurricane disrupt election day. The second comment inquired about preparing for the upcoming Municipal Election. Mr. Channell explained the tasks remaining and assured the Board the office is fully prepared. The final comment related to planning for the State conference in December.

Executive Session

There was no motion for an Executive Session.

Adjournment

Mr. Clark made a motion to adjourn, Ms. Featherstone seconded. The motion was approved 5-0.

Patricia Gibson, Chairman

Keith Rustin, Secretary