



GLYNN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Meeting, Tuesday May 12, 2020

The May meeting of the Board of Elections and Registration was called to order by Chairman Gibson at 10 am.

Present were Patricia Gibson, Chairman; Sandy Dean, Vice Chairman; Keith Rustin, Secretary; Patricia Featherstone, Member; Tommy Clark, Member; Christopher Channell, Supervisor; Christina Redden, Assistant Supervisor; Taylor Cooper, The Brunswick News; Pam Shierling, The Islander; Timothy McDermott

Acknowledgement

Ms. Gibson expressed the Board's sympathies to the family of Faye Owens.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Approval of Minutes of March 10, 2020 Regular Board Meeting

The minutes were approved with minor corrections.

New Business

Qualifications of District 5 Board of Education Candidates

Mr. Channell stated the candidate, Shawn Brown, has chosen to withdraw from the race. No further action was required by the Board.

Early Voting

Voting begins next Monday. Mr. Channell confirmed all three locations are fully staffed. COVID-19 measures, including regular machine sanitation and social distancing, will be in place. Locations will have 4 machines. Set up will be Friday. The county has installed an internet line to Ballard. Ms. Featherstone requested early voting metrics upon the completion of the primary. Ms. Gibson commented upon the need to better advertise Ballard as an early voting site.

Election Day

Ms. Gibson wished to thank all of the county polling locations which have agreed to host the Election despite statewide concerns of COVID related cancellations. Mr. Channell stated logic & accuracy testing is ongoing. Poll worker staffing continues, with several stating they are unavailable due to virus concerns or scheduling conflicts. Some clerks will be promoted to Assistant Manager. New poll workers will be trained in small groups; the State has provided online training videos. Polls will have less staff.

Office Report

The FY20 budget ends June 30. Ms. Dean inquired about reimbursement expected from the State for equipment related purchases. Mr. Channell responded approximately \$8,000 is expected. Ms. Featherstone requested a final breakdown of expenses, including one-time items and new recurring expenses. Budget discussion included poll worker salaries in the FY22 budget and verifying the current budget accommodates for this election's additional staffing and cleaning demands.



The State mailed absentee applications to all active voters and will print and mail those ballots. The office has issued almost 12,000 ballots and accepted over 2,000 ballots. Poll workers are helping process the applications. Mr. Channell stated the previous year's scanning project has essentially paid for itself by reducing labor needed to process these applications. Ballots are accepted or challenged according to state guidelines. Ms. Dean inquired if Board members were needed to assist with ballot processing. Mr. Channell responded that assistance would be ideal but the office is currently staffed to the maximum capacity under social distancing regulations. Once those restrictions are lifted, the Board will revisit the need to assist. Mr. Rustin commented on the need for auditing and how Board members might assist with those duties.

Ms. Gibson inquired about the newly installed ballot drop box. Mr. Channell commented on the voters' significant response to the drop box. The box is under camera surveillance. It is only opened in the presence of two staff members and checked twice each day. A portion of the ballot box purchase may be reimbursed through COVID related federal grants.

Reorganization of the Board of Elections and Registration

Ms. Gibson and Ms. Dean were both nominated and seconded for the office of Chairperson for 2020-2021. Board members discussed the candidates and goals of the office with each member providing commentary. A vote was held with Ms. Gibson receiving three votes and Ms. Dean receiving two votes, Ms. Gibson was elected as the Chairperson for 2020-2021. Nominations for Vice Chairperson were Ms. Dean, who declined nomination, and Ms. Featherstone. Ms. Featherstone was unanimously elected to the position of Vice Chairperson. Mr. Rustin was the sole nominee and unanimously elected to the position of Secretary.

Meeting dates for the 2020-2021 organizational year were discussed. The second Tuesday conflicts with three elections. The Board decided to maintain the second Tuesday, but to adjust the dates of meetings with specific conflicts. Mr. Clark moved to accept the new meeting dates, Mr. Rustin accepted and the motion was approved unanimously. Ms. Dean stated the 10am meeting time does not accommodate the working public. Mr. Clark motioned to set the meeting time to 6:30pm. Ms. Dean seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Board Member Comments

Ms. Featherstone commented on recent positive press. Ms. Gibson commented a FY22 budget work session is needed to discuss planning and poll worker pay. Ms. Featherstone noted Mr. Channell's recent appointment to the State's Absentee Ballot Fraud Task Force. Ms. Gibson reminded Mr. Channell to send election day assignment to the Board members.

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