



GLYNN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Meeting, Tuesday, February 21, 2023, Board of Elections Office

The February meeting of the Board of Elections and Registration was called to order at 2:00 PM.

Present were Patricia Featherstone, Chairman; Keith Rustin, Vice Chairman; Ward Schaumberg, Secretary; Sandy Dean, Member; Tommy Clark, Member; Christopher Channell, Director; Christina Redden, Assistant Director; Jason Wilbanks, Assistant County Attorney; Gordon Jackson, *The Brunswick News*; Joyce Kitchens; Lavonia Clark; Penny Hennessey; David Solomon; Terry Starry; Brook Hall.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Approve the Minutes of the January 10, 2023 Regular Meeting

The Board reviewed previous changes made to the draft document. Mr. Clark made a motion to approve the minutes with the reviewed changes. Mr. Rustin seconded, and the motion carried 4-0. Ms. Dean abstained.

Old Business

Office Space Update

Mr. Channell described the ongoing unpacking and positioning activities. The former office is completely vacated. The contractor is currently addressing the few corrective items needed. Electronic badge access is delayed due to part availability.

GARVIS Update

The State has officially transferred to the new voter registration system. Although there have been a few technical issues, which was expected, there have been no problems which block normal office procedures. Ms. Redden commented the workflow in GARVIS is substantially different and the office will need to significantly revise many procedures.

Municipal Agreement

Office staff is currently preparing for the November City election, including August Qualifying. The Notice of Qualifying has been placed in the paper. The Board reviewed the current draft of the Municipal Agreement to conduct elections for the City of Brunswick. Mr. Wilbanks explained the roles and responsibilities within the document and recommended an addendum to provide more specific definitions. Otherwise, Mr. Wilbanks believes the document covers all aspects of elections as explained by staff. Once the agreement is complete, the Board of Elections and Registration will be the single point of contact for elections. The most substantial change is the County will now handle campaign finance reporting for the City. Ms. Featherstone asked for an addendum which verifies Howard Coffin Park will be available for all elections, County or City. Further clarification will be needed to determine if Selden Park will be managed by the County or by the City which might require an additional addendum.

Legislative Update

Mr. Channell presented a list of election and registration bills which are currently pending in the State House and Senate. The Board was asked to review the list on their own and contact Mr. Channell if there is legislation they wish to directly communicate about with legislators. Mr. Schaumberg asked about legislation to amend the 250 to 1 ratio which requires the purchase of additional Dominion machines. Mr. Channell stated it is not currently included on any pending legislation.

New Business

GAVREO Conference Takeaways

Ms. Featherstone noted a recent article with interviews from Board members regarding the conference. Mr. Rustin commented on the information regarding harassment and threats to elections officials and how to plan

for such in 2024. Mr. Schaumberg felt the conference was the best he has attended with regard to organization and quality of presentations. Mr. Schaumberg would like to further explore the topic of Open Records Act Requests. Ms. Featherstone thanked County Manager Fallon for his welcome speech at the beginning of the conference. Ms. Featherstone found the Emergency Management presentations to be very helpful and noted concerns from the conference regarding the recent separation of the Secretary of State's office and the State Election Board. Board members agreed a presentation by UGA provided election opinion statistics but also had a very small data pool. Ms. Featherstone asked Mr. Channell to respond to the data survey in order to increase the study's accuracy.

The overall theme of the conference was to prepare for 2024. The Board agreed to address different topics in greater detail at each monthly meeting ahead of 2024. Ms. Featherstone will provide a list of topics to review at each meeting and Mr. Channell will explain relevant steps and concerns related to preparation.

Office Report

Mr. Channell stated there had been two Open Records Act requests in January. Additionally, full voter registration statistics for the month of January will not be available until the GARVIS transfer is complete at the end of February. Mr. Channell also reviewed the current budget and stated he is working with the Finance Department to develop a better way of tracking election specific costs. A new Elections Administrative Technician will start the next week and then all staff positions will be filled.

An open house and a ribbon cutting ceremony are planned for the new building. Ms. Featherstone asked that invitations include poll workers, precinct contacts, County Commissioners, former Board members, and other individuals who have been key to this project. The Board set the date of the Open House. Ms. Dean will contact the Chamber of Commerce regarding a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Board Member Comments

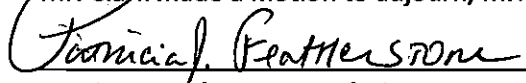
There were no Board member comments

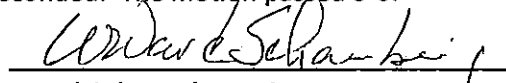
Executive Session

There was no motion for Executive Session.

Adjournment

Mr. Clark made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Schaumberg seconded. The motion passed 5-0.


Patricia Featherstone, Chairman


Ward Schaumberg, Secretary