MACON-BIBB COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

2525 PIO NONO AVE., STE 1200, MACON, GA 31206

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 20, 2020

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

(Ms. Cassandra Powell was absent)

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: Charisse Spangler, Carolyn Hargrove, LWV, Yanhua Duan Zhanj, Elaine M. Johnson, Peter Taylor, CGFT & LC, Claudia Kirkwood, LWV, Christiana Jackson, Dominion Voting Representative, Mark Dehler, State Dem. Party, Maria Bryant, NAACP

CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Henry Ficklin, Chairperson, called the regular meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Mr. Kaplan made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 23, 2020 regular Board Meeting. Mr. Spangler seconded. Dr. Ficklin and Mrs. Wilson agreed. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Dr. Ficklin stated he spoke with Dr. Keith Moffett, County Manager and he is working with Mayor Reichert to receive approval from the necessary persons to minimize the Vendor Package application process requirements for polling locations. An update will be provided to the Board when it becomes available.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Kaplan made a motion to approve the Poll Manager Appointments for the March 24, 2020 Presidential Preference Primary Election; according to O.C.G.A. 21-2-90. Mrs. Wilson seconded. Dr. Ficklin and Mr. Spangler agreed. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Dr. Ficklin stated this office has one more year with the current lease. More space is required for storage of the new voting equipment and supplies. Dr. Ficklin invited Dr. Keith Moffett, County Manager and Julie Moore, Strategic Planning to visit this office to assess the concerns of appropriate space needed to operate. Also discussed, was the possibility of acquiring new office space moving forward.
3. Mrs. Watson stated due to old operating systems on 11 desktop computers and 13 laptops, the EasyVote software used to process voters during early voting will not function properly and may be susceptible to viruses; therefore, the IT Department said they would need to be replaced immediately.
4. After much discussion concerning additional poll worker training compensation, as the poll workers will require more than one day of training; Mr. Kaplan made a motion to request approval from the Commissioners to pay poll workers an additional $25 dollars to receive required extended training. Mr. Spangler seconded. Dr. Ficklin and Mr. Spangler agreed. The motion passed unanimously.
5. Dr. Ficklin stated he asked Ms. Maynard to get quotes for the purchasing large Cargo Vans for transporting some of the equipment and supplies. We have triple the amount of equipment and supplies than used previously.
6. Vendor Package was already listed under new business and discussed. Please see above.
7. Dr. Ficklin expressed with Dr. Keith Moffett, County Manager the need for an additional full-time and part-time employee. Mrs. Watson stated we also need additional technicians.
8. Dr. Ficklin stated Bibb County needs more than one early voting location and discussed implementing an additional site prior to the May election. Mr. Kaplan stated the Harriett Tubman museum may be a possibility. Mr. Kaplan further stated he will look for possible locations.
9. Mr. Maynard, Elections Technicians stated in this building there were too many outlets on one circuit and the building was not wired according to code. In one case, there are 9 outlets on one circuit.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Correspondence
2. Poll Worker Salary List
3. Items from the Chief Registrar, Veronica Seals
   1. Active **106,757** Inactive **5,385** Combined Total **112,142** as of February 20, 2020
   2. ElectioNet Voter Registration Dashboard Report *(Registrations waiting to be processed)*
      1. DDS Department Driver Services Applications – **794**
      2. OLVR – Online Voter Registration Applications–  **7**

Verification of Pending Voters – **116**

1. Items from the Board Members
2. Items from the County Attorney
   1. Mr. William Noland, County Attorney stated the question posed to him was whether the person appointed to fill an elected office unexpired term for the Macon Water Authority (MWA) vacancy due to the passing of Mr. Javors Lucas, was qualified to fill the seat although he does not live in the district? Mr. Noland explained that the appointment process is done by the Probate Court Judge. The Probate Court Judge appoints a qualified person to fill the vacancy until a special election can be conducted. The question asked was if the person appointed to fill the vacancy prior to the special election is qualified; although, he does not live in the district? Mr. Noland explained the difference between a qualified appointment and qualifications to be elected.

After much discussion, Mr. Spangler made a motion for Mr. Noland, to ask the MWA to provide legal justification for why the individual appointed was permitted to fill the vacancy although he did not reside within the district. Mr. Kaplan seconded. Dr. Ficklin and Mrs. Wilson agreed. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Items from the Elections Supervisor
   1. Mrs. Watson stated she is in the process of facilitating poll worker training. She further stated the entire staff is extremely busy learning new procedures and more duties; in addition to, preparing for the Presidential Preference Primary and the beginning stages for the May Primary and Nonpartisan General election.
   2. I am working with training Tom, Charlene and Canetra to prepare for qualifying which will be held the same week early voting begins.
2. Final Public Comment

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Kaplan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:11 p.m. Mr. Spangler seconded. Dr. Ficklin and Mrs. Wilson agreed. The motion passed unanimously.

***Minutes transcribed by Jeanetta Watson***