MACON-BIBB COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

*(HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE)*

MAY 28, 2020

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

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

Board of Elections’ Attorney: Mr. William Noland

Visitors: Liz Fabian, Maria Bryant, Macon-Bibb NAACP, Lee Raine, Victoria Detardenas, WGXA, Peter F. Taylor, Jr., Quinton Tard, Roll to the Polls, Claudia Kirkwood, LWV, Don Cole, Candidate Congressional District 2, Wiley Kimbrough, Jwan Jackson, Candidate for Board of Education, Mark Dehler, Rep. Democratic Party of GA, Elaine Johnson, Vivian Childs, Candidate for Congressional District 2

CALL TO ORDER:

Mike Kaplan, Chairperson, called the Special Call meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Dr. Ficklin made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular Board meeting held Thursday, April 30, 2020. Mr. Spangler seconded. Mr. Kaplan, Mrs. Wilson, and Ms. Powell agreed. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Ficklin made a motion to approve the minutes from the Special Call Board meeting held Monday, May 4, 2020. Mr. Spangler seconded. Mr. Kaplan, Mrs. Wilson, and Ms. Powell agreed. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Ficklin made a motion to approve the minutes from the Special Call Board meeting held Tuesday, May 19, 2020. Mr. Spangler seconded. Mr. Kaplan, Mrs. Wilson, and Ms. Powell agreed. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mrs. Watson informed the Board that the State Election Board adopted an Emergency Rule 183-1-14-0.7-.15 for early processing of absentee ballots prior to election day. The rule states for the Elections held on June 9, 2020, beginning at 8:00 a.m. on the second Monday prior to Election Day, county election superintendents shall be authorized to begin processing absentee ballots.
2. Dr. Ficklin made a motion to correct the agenda to reflect the correct election date for approval of the Order of Poll Managers Appointments. Mr. Spangler seconded. Mr. Kaplan, Mrs. Wilson, and Ms. Powell agreed.

According to O.C.G.A. 21-2-290, Mrs. Watson provided the Board with the Order of Appointment list of persons who will receive adequate poll worker training to serve as Poll Managers for the June 9, 2020 General Primary and Nonpartisan General Election. Dr. Ficklin made a motion to approve the Order of Appointment of list of Poll Managers. Mr. Spangler seconded. Mr. Kaplan, Mrs. Wilson, and Ms. Powell agreed. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Ms. Maynard informed the Board that the Absentee Ballot Drop box has been ordered and is being processed through the procurement department. The deadline to submit the purchase receipt for grant reimbursement is June 12, 2020. Ms. Maynard further stated it will be available by the November General Election.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Items from the Chief Registrar
   1. Absentee Voting
      1. In-Person 2,175
      2. Processed Mailed Ballots Applications 23,525
      3. Returned number of Absentee ballots by mail 11,703
   2. Voter Registration
      1. Active Voters 106,057 Inactive 6,879 Combined Total 112,936 *as of May 28, 2020*
   3. ElectioNet Voter Registration Workload
      1. DDS Department of Driver Services Application to Process – 668
      2. OLVR – Online Voter Registration Application to Process – 134
      3. Verification of Pending Voters - 1
2. Items from Board Members
   1. Dr. Ficklin stated a policy should be implemented to notify candidates when an error has been made which affects their election and a there should also be a report submitted to the Board concerning the incident. Mr. Kaplan stated a letter has been submitted to each candidate and to the electors affected by the error. A report will be submitted to the Board concerning the incident.
   2. Ms. Powell requested Mr. William Noland, County Attorney for an update concerning the lawsuit from the New Georgia Project. Mr. Noland recommended for the Board to place discussion concerning pending litigation as an Executive Session on the agenda for the next Board Meeting.
   3. Dr. Ficklin asked Mr. William Noland, County Attorney for an update concerning the Macon Water Authority’s decision to appoint a person that does not live in district 2. Mr. Noland stated he spoke with counsel for the Macon Water Authority who indicated they stand by their decision.
3. Items from the Supervisor
   1. Continue with preparation for the June 9, 2020 General Primary and Nonpartisan General Election.
4. Correspondence
   1. State Election Board (SEB) Adopted Proposed Emergency Rule for early processing of Absentee Ballots.

ADJOURNMENT:

Dr. Ficklin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Mrs. Wilson seconded. Mr. Kaplan, Dr. Ficklin, and Ms. Powell agreed. The motion passed unanimously.

***Minutes transcribed by Jeanetta Watson***