MACON-BIBB COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

*(HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE)*

AUGUST 27, 2020

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

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: Maria Bryant, Macon-Bibb NAACP, Claudia Kirkwood, LWV, Juwan Jackson, Elaine Johnson, Peanut Gallery, Sandy Tharpe, Georgia Women, Carolyn Hargrove, LWV, Brittany Miller, WGXA News, Bill Howell, District 7, Peter Taylor, Kimberlyn Carter, Executive Director of Rep GA Institute, DeMarcus Beckham, New GA Project

CALL TO ORDER:

Mike Kaplan, Chairperson, called the Special Call meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Dr. Ficklin made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular Board meeting held Thursday, July 16, 2020. Mr. Spangler seconded. Mr. Kaplan, Mrs. Wilson, and Ms. Powell agreed. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Dr. Ficklin made a motion to approve filing a copy of the consolidated certification of returns for the August 11, 2020 Non-Partisan General Runoff Election as a permanent record in the minutes. Mr. Spangler seconded. Mr. Kaplan, Mrs. Wilson, and Ms. Powell agreed. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Mrs. Watson informed the Board the State Election Board unanimously voting to approve a rule authorizing the Secretary of State’s upcoming online absentee ballot request form portal. The online portal, which is currently undergoing testing, will make it easier for both Georgia voters to request absentee ballots in the future and for county officials to process the dramatic increase in absentee ballots seen during the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Dr. Ficklin made a motion for the Board to discussion for Sunday voting. No member seconded; therefore, the motion did not pass.
4. Mr. Kaplan informed the Board that the new landlord has talked with Mrs. Watson and the staff to assess the need for additional space.
5. Mrs. Watson provided the Board with the FY 2021 Supplemental Budget request for Ballot Printing, Printing and Binding, Contractual Labor, Rental Equipment & Vehicles and Rental Trucks expenses.

After much discussion, Dr. Ficklin made a motion to include budgetary performance reports at every monthly Board meeting. Ms. Powell seconded. Mr. Kaplan, Mr. Spangler, and Mrs. Wilson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Kaplan informed the Board that we will have an additional official absentee ballot drop box located at the Courthouse.
2. Dr. Ficklin stated he spoke with Dr. Moffett concerning authorization to use the location at the Terminal Station previously used as an additional advanced voting site. Mrs. Watson stated a supplemental budget will be submitted to the Commission to cover additional expenses for the 2 addition polling sites.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Items from the Elections Officer – Tom Gillon
   1. Mr. Gillon provided the Board members with a list of the elected officials who have not turned in their annual Personal Financial Disclosure (PFD) by the July 1st, and Campaign Contribution Disclosure Reports (CCDR) by the July 8th, deadline. As required, all elected officials and/or candidates who submitted their reports after the deadlines have been reported to the Georgia Government & Campaign Finance Commission.
2. Items from the Chief Registrar, Veronica Seals
   1. Voter registration deadline for the November 3, 2020 General/Special Election is October 5
   2. Turnout is expected to be 3 times as high
   3. The Absentee Ballot Drop Box will officially open as required on Friday, September 18, 2020 which is 45-days prior to the election
   4. New Secretary of State Online Absentee Ballot Portal – Registrars will now be able to process online Absentee Ballot Applications via the SOS ElectioNet Dashboard – (See correspondence)
3. Absentee in-person – Early Voting Begins Monday, October 12, 2020
4. Rollover List issue date September 18 (Elderly & Disabled) – Ballots to be mailed from the rollover list - **10,332**
5. Returned Ballots – **Ballots have not gone out at this time**
   1. Active – **105,538** Inactive - **9,133** Combined Total – **114,671** as of date: 08/27/2020
   2. ElectioNet Voter Registration Dashboard Report
      1. DDS Department Driver Services Applications – **1,556**
      2. OLVR – Online Voter Registration Applications– **12**
      3. Verification of Pending Voters – **12**
6. Items from Board Members
7. Items from the County Attorney
   1. Mr. Noland, County Attorney is of the opinion that the Board may require poll workers to wear face coverings and/or mask.
8. Items from the Supervisor
   1. Preparation for the November 3, 2020 General Election
   2. Preparation for General/Special Election Poll Worker Training
   3. Proofing Ballots
   4. Order 18” ballots for absentee voting
   5. Preparation of the Sample Ballot (Copy of preliminary unofficial sample ballot not to be distributed until approved)
   6. 2020 Census update
9. Correspondence: (Copies for Board meeting files)
   1. Consolidated certification of returns for the August 11, 2020 Nonpartisan General Runoff Election
   2. Updated list of elected officials who filed Personal Financial Disclosure (PFD) and/or Campaign Contribution Disclosure (CCDR) Reports after the deadline
   3. Copy of preliminary composite sample ballot – not to be distributed until completed
   4. An Ordinance of the Macon-Bibb County Commission enacting a local option face covering requirement in accordance with Executive Order 08.15.20.01, issued by Governor Kemp on August 15, 2020 (Commission approved this Ordinance August 25, 2020)
   5. An Ordinance of the Macon-Bibb County Commission to establish face covering requirements for entry into county property, in accordance with Executive Order 08.15.20.01, issued by Governor Kemp on August 15, 2020
   6. Brad Raffensperger reopens grants for official absentee ballot drop boxes
   7. State Election Board gives unanimous green light to online absentee ballot portal
   8. Revised Voter Information Flyer
   9. FY 2021 Supplemental Budget request for Ballot Printing, Printing & Binding, Contractual Labor, Rental Equipment and Vehicles (includes Penske Rental trucks to transport election equipment to and from the polling locations.
   10. New poll worker polling place forms
   11. 2020 Census Flyer

FINAL PUBLIC COMMENTS: (Limit to 2 minutes)

ADJOURNMENT:

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

***Minutes transcribed by Jeanetta Watson***