MACON-BIBB COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

*(HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM)*

FEBRUARY 25, 2021

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Board Members Present: Mr. Mike Kaplan, Mrs. Rinda Wilson, Mr. Herbert Spangler, Dr. Henry Ficklin, 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: Sandy Tharpe, Georgia Women, Maria Bryant, Macon-Bibb NAACP, Darius Maynard, Macon Democrat Party, Karen Evans-Daniel, Local Democrat Party, Claudia Kirkwood, LWV, Peter Taylor, Jr., Jamael S., Teresa Harris, Former Poll Manager, Carolyn Hargrove, LWV, Joel Hazard, Local Republican Party, Mark Dehler, Democrat Party of Georgia, Donald Pruitt, Senator David Lucas, and Commissioner Elaine Lucas

CALL TO ORDER:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Dr. Ficklin made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular Board meeting held Thursday, December 17, 2020. Mr. Spangler seconded. Mr. Kaplan, Mrs. Wilson, and Ms. Powell agreed. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Dr. Ficklin made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular Board meeting held Thursday, January 28, 2021. Mr. Spangler seconded. Mr. Kaplan, Mrs. Wilson, and Ms. Powell agreed. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. There was none.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Mr. William Noland, County Attorney provided an explanation to the Board regarding the legalities surrounding the Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL) grant and as it pertains to training pay compensation. He stated that from a legal standpoint, hazard pay cannot be paid retroactively or when approved after the work is done. Only workers who attended training were eligible according to stipulations approved within the Ordinance and by the Board of Elections.
2. Mrs. Watson stated the representative from CTCL contacted this office regarding approval for the 2nd grant request. She further stated that the representative informed her that even though the January 5,

2021 Runoff Election was finalized, the funds may be used for purposes other than the initial request for purchases which fall within the guidelines of the grant. Mrs. Watson has submitted the request to CTCL for an extension to spend down the remaining funds.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Items from the Chief Registrar, Veronica Seals
   * 1. Active – **110,230** Inactive – **6,870** Combined Total – **117,100** as of date: *February 24, 2021*
   1. ElectioNet Voter Registration Dashboard Report
      1. DDS Department Driver Services Applications – **27**
      2. OLVR – Online Voter Registration Applications– **0**
      3. Verification of Pending Voters – **75**
2. Items from the Board Members
   1. After discussion concerning appointment of the At-Large member for the 2021 – 2023 (2) year term, Ms. Powell nominated Mark Dehler. Afterwards, the Board members agreed to have a Special Call meeting next week to further discuss submission of additional names. Mr. Kaplan stated he would schedule the meeting.
   2. Dr. Ficklin made a motion to pay the poll manager and up to (5) poll workers $75.00 each for setting up the polling place prior to the election. Ms. Powell seconded. Mr. Kaplan, Mrs. Wilson, and Mr. Spangler agreed. The motion passed unanimously.
   3. Dr. Ficklin made a motion to increase the compensation to churches and any other polling places which receives compensation from $70.00 per election to $200.00 per election. Ms. Powell seconded. Mr. Kaplan agreed. Mr. Spangler and Mrs. Wilson were opposed. The motion passed.
   4. Dr. Ficklin stated he would like to Call for the Board to have an Executive Session Committee meeting to discuss office operations and personnel issues. The Board agreed.

1. Items from the County Attorney – Mr. William Noland
   1. Mr. Noland stated the Secretary of State Election Board (SEB) was handling a backlog of cases from the 2017 – 2020 elections. Bibb County had a case where during the 2018 Primary election, several voters where inadvertently issued an incorrect ballot. Due to the steps taken, most of the issues were resolved. The SEB took this into consideration. The case was dismissed, and a letter of instruction will be issued to the Board of Elections.
2. Items from the Supervisor
   1. FY 2022 Department Budget Request Information
      1. Request received February 16, 2021 *(Deadline for submission is March 26, 2021)*
   2. County to County Personnel Assessment
      1. Job Description
      2. Salary
      3. Poll Worker Pay
   3. Update the BOE Website (Removal of old content)
   4. Responses to backlog of open records requests
   5. Georgia Voter Registration and Elections Officials Yearly Conference
      1. O.C.G.A. – 21-2-101 – County Election Superintendents or Election Board Designee
3. Correspondence: (Copies for Board meeting files)
   1. Ordinance & Supporting Documents regarding Grant Funding for Training Pay for the January 5, 2021 General Primary and Nonpartisan General Runoff Election
   2. Budget Performance Report for February 2021
   3. SEB Case No. 2018-049
   4. 2021-2022 Legislative Session - Bills regarding elections
   5. O.C.G.A. 21-2-101 – Georgia Voter Registration and Election Officials (GAVREO) Conference

(Attendance Limitations due to COVID-19 Restrictions)

MEETING ADJOURNMENT:

Dr. Ficklin made a motion for adjournment at 5:10 p.m. Ms. Powell seconded. Mr. Kaplan, Mrs. Wilson, and Mr. Spangler agreed. The motion passed unanimously.

***Minutes transcribed by Jeanetta Watson***