MACON-BIBB COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

*(HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE)*

NOVEMBER 19, 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: Sandy Tharpe, Georgia Women, Janice Davis, Stacia Powell Evans, Poll Manager New Griswoldville, Carolyn Hargrove, LWV, Peter Taylor, Liz Fabian, Janice Davis, Helen Butler, Elaine Johnson, Norman Wells, Theresa Harris

CALL TO ORDER:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mrs. Watson requested approval to defer approval of the minutes from the regular Board meeting held Thursday, September 17, 2020, and October 22, 2020 to the December 17, 2020 meeting date. The Board agreed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. According to O.C.G.A. 21-2-497 Mrs. Watson requested the Board to approve the consolidated certification of returns for the November 3, 2020 General and Special Election as permanent records of the November 19, 2020 meeting minutes. Dr. Ficklin made a motion to approve the consolidated certification of returns for the November 3, 2020 General and Special Election as permanent records of the November 19, 2020 meeting minutes. Mr. Spangler seconded. Mr. Kaplan, Mrs. Wilson, and Ms. Powell agreed. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Mrs. Watson informed the Board that procurement is in the process of completing the bidding process and vendor package so the high-speed letter opener can be ordered.
2. Mr. Kaplan stated he will contact Mr. Rob Ryals, Facilities Management Director concerning set up of the Absentee Ballot Drop Box as soon as possible at the Charles A. Lanford Library located at 6504 Houston Road, Macon, GA 31216.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Items from the Chief Registrar, Veronica Seals
	1. Voter registration deadline for the *January 5, 2021* General/Special Election Runoff Election is Monday, December 7, 2020
	2. Absentee Ballot mailing – Urge voters to follow up on absentee ballot request
	3. All Absentee Ballot Drop Boxes will officially close at 7:00 p.m. at the close of the polls
	4. **The Online Absentee Ballot Application Portal** is live and the public can log on to: [https://ballotrequest.sos.ga.gov](https://ballotrequest.sos.ga.gov/) to process their absentee ballot application and it will automatically be submitted to the board of elections office electronically
	5. Absentee in-person – Early Voting Begins Monday, December 14, 2020
		* 1. Board of Elections main office
			2. Elaine Lucas Senior Center
			3. Theron Ussery Recreation Center
		1. Returned Ballots – Mailing has not begun
		2. Active – **108,445** Inactive -**7,418** - Combined Total – **115,863**

as of date: **11/19/2020**

* 1. Mailing absentee ballots – begins **November 18, 2020**
	2. ElectioNet Voter Registration Dashboard Report
		1. DDS Department Driver Services Applications – **2,668**
		2. OLVR – Online Voter Registration Applications– **1,416**
		3. Verification of Pending Voters – **3**
		4. Online Absentee Ballot Application Portal – **1,803**
1. Items from the Board Members
	1. Ms. Powell asked about the status payment to churches used as voting facilities. Ms. Maynard stated there was a delay due to incomplete vendor package submissions to the procurement department. Payment is to be mailed out on November 20, 2020.
	2. Dr. Ficklin requested a copy of the proposed pay plans. Mrs. Watson will forward a copy of the proposals concerning the outcome of the pay study.
2. Items from the Supervisor
	1. Preparation for the January 5, 2021 General and Special Election Runoff
	2. The Secretary of State will notify counties of the date when early processing and tabulation of absentee ballots can begin
	3. Counties will be mailing their own absentee ballots for the January Runoff
3. Items from the County Attorney
	1. Mr. Noland stated the county attorney’s office has taken the position that any retroactive pay or hazard pay violates the gratuities clause of the constitution. The commitment to pay the workers had to be made before the work was done. He further recommended for the Board to have a policy put in place for December 2020 to pay employees, temporary workers, and poll workers hazard pay due to an undo health risk. This policy would serve as an incentive to retain poll workers performing essential duties who are being put at risk.

After much discussion, Dr. Ficklin made a motion to the recommended policy in place and apply for additional grant funds for hazard pay for the January 5, 2021 General and Special Election Runoff. Mr. Spangler seconded. Mr. Kaplan, Mrs. Wilson, and Ms. Powell agreed.

1. Correspondence: (Copies for Board meeting files)
	1. Certification of Returns for the November 3, 2020 General Election
	2. Budget Performance Report
	3. The January Runoff Ballot information

ADJOURNMENT:

Dr. Ficklin made a motion for adjournment at 4:45 p.m. Mr. Spangler seconded. Mr. Kaplan, Mrs. Wilson, and Ms. Powell agreed. The motion passed unanimously.

***Minutes transcribed by Jeanetta Watson***