MACON-BIBB COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

*(HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE)*

SEPTEMBER 17, 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, Sandy Tharpe, Georgia Women, Carolyn Hargrove, LWV, Peter Taylor, Candace Kortovich,GA Voters Group, Whitney Hines, WGXA News, Peggy Sakach, Liz Fabian, Valerie Wynn, Commissioner District 1, Quinton Tard, Rolls to the Polls, Rachel Helms, Rolls to the Polls, Susie Battles, Common Cause Good Governance, Darius Maynard, Jenna Eason, Kimberlyn Carter, Janice Davis

CALL TO ORDER:

Mike Kaplan, Chairperson, called the Special Call meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mrs. Watson requested the Board to defer approval of the minutes from the regular Board meeting held Thursday, August 27, 2020 to the October 15, 2020 regular meeting date.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Dr. Ficklin made a motion for the Board to re-visit the discussion for Sunday voting. Ms. Powell seconded. Dr. Ficklin stated that he is in favor of Sunday voting due to such a push in the community. After much discussion, Dr. Ficklin made a motion to approve Sunday voting. Mr. Kaplan voted yes. Mr. Spangler, Mrs. Wilson, and Ms. Powell were opposed. The motion did not pass.
2. After discussion, Dr Ficklin made a motion to approve implementing two additional advance voting locations. The additional locations will be: The Elaine Lucas Senior Center located at 132 Willie Smokie Glover Dr. and Theron Ussery Park Community Recreation Center located at 815 N Macon Park Dr. In addition, all advance voting locations will be available for Saturday voting and for all runoff’s elections. Ms. Powell seconded. Mr. Kaplan, Mr. Spangler, and Mrs. Wilson agreed. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Dr. Ficklin made a motion to submit the FY 2021 supplemental budget request in the amount of $427,251.00 to the Commission for approval. The request is for various cost relating to conduct of the 2020 General Election. Mrs. Wilson seconded. Mr. Kaplan, Mr. Spangler, and Ms. Powell agreed. The motion passed unanimously. The Commission had met on September 15, 2020 and approved the request for supplemental budget funds in the amount of $427,251.00 to be allotted to the Board of Elections.

D. Mr. Kaplan informed the Board that sample ballots for the November 3, 2020 General & Special Election are available. Sample ballots are also available on the Secretary of State My Voter Page.

E. The Secretary of State will be using the same vendor for mailing absentee ballots. The grant the SOS used earlier this year for processing and mailing absentee ballot fulfillment has run out. The SOS will bill counties postage expense in the amount of $1.40 per ballot for mailing ballots on behalf of counties for the November General Election.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Kaplan stated an additional official absentee ballot drop box is pending delivery and will to be located at the Bibb County Courthouse on the Mulberry Street side next to the Grand Opera House.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. 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. Absentee ballot mailing began Tuesday, September 15, 2020 for applications processed before or after September 8, 2020
   4. The official absentee ballot drop box officially opened on Tuesday, September 15, 2020
   5. The online absentee ballot application portal is now available for the public. Log on to: <https://ballotrequest.sos.ga.gov> to process their absentee ballot application and it will be automatically submitted to the Board of Elections office electronically
   6. Absentee in person advance voting begins Monday, October 12, 2020
2. Rollover List issue date September 18 (Elderly & Disabled) – Ballots to be mailed from the rollover list - **10,332**
3. Returned Ballots – **0**
   1. Active – **106,284** Inactive - **8,655** Combined Total – **114,939** as of date: 09/17/2020
   2. ElectioNet Voter Registration Dashboard Workload Report
      1. DDS Department Driver Services Applications – **798**
      2. OLVR – Online Voter Registration Applications– **151**
      3. Verification of Pending Voters – **186; 1 – Challenged** (possible felon)
      4. \*\*New Online Absentee Ballot Application Portal - **50**
4. Items from Board Members
   1. Ms. Powell stated that Mrs. Watson applied for a COVID-19 Response Grant through the Center for Tech and Civic Life. Mrs. Powell and Dr. Ficklin are assisting Mrs. Watson with a Hazard Pay incentive for BOE staff and poll workers contingent upon approval of the grant. She further stated custodians are needed to keep restroom facilities at the BOE office and the two additional voting locations.
   2. After discussion Dr. Ficklin made a motion to request Mr. William Noland, County Attorney, to draw up guidelines applicable for poll workers to report COVID-19 sickness, if quarantined due to exposure or have tested positive, hospitalized, and/or if they have traveled out of town. Mr. Spangler seconded. Mr. Kaplan, Mrs. Wilson, and Ms. Powell agreed.
5. Items from the Supervisor (Report)
   1. Preparation and ordering voting equipment and supplies needed for the November 3, 2020 General Election
   2. Preparation for General/Special Election Poll Worker Training (2) Tiers
      1. Managers and Assistant Managers Training – (September 21 – 25)
      2. All Managers and all other poll workers – (October 5 – 10)
6. Correspondence: (Copies of documents for Board meeting files)
   1. Composite sample ballot
   2. My Voter Page (MVP) Screenshot
   3. Macon-Bibb County List of Polling Locations
   4. Secretary of State Absentee Ballot Fulfillment (Cost of Postage)
   5. Macon-Bibb County’s Ordinance for approval of supplemental funding for the 2020 Elections
   6. September Budget Performance Report

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Spangler made a motion for adjournment at 5:07 p.m. Dr. Ficklin, seconded. Mr. Kaplan, Mrs. Wilson, and Ms. Powell agreed. The motion passed unanimously.

***Minutes transcribed by Jeanetta Watson***