

BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND VOTER REGISTRATION OF JASPER COUNTY

BOARD MEETING MINUTES – MAY 11, 2017

PRESENT: Chairman Joseph Arzillo; Vice Chairperson Pamela M. Williams; Mr. Carl Tyler; Mr. Timothy Crosby; Mr. Rodney Catterton; Mrs. Denise Davidson; Ms. Carrie Fair; Ms. Regenia Scott; Mr. John Kemp and Director Jeanine Bostick.

ABSENT: None

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Arzillo.

INVOCATION: Mr. Timothy Crosby.

Pledge of Allegiance by all.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motioned by Mrs. Scott, seconded by Mr. Kemp to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *November 11, 2016 Canvass Hearing; March 9, 2017 and April 13, 2017 Board Minutes.* Motioned by Mrs. Scott, seconded Mr. Kemp to approve all of the above minutes. Ms. Fair mentioned the March 9, 2017 minutes, but then withdrew any comments. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Fair asked was the Board approving the minutes entirely or individually. Ms. Fair stated she had some un-readiness on April 13, 2017 Board Minutes. Ms. Fair stated under **NEW BUSINESS** correcting the spelling of *statistics* and **REVIEW, DISCUSS AND SIGN OFF ON LETTER TO DELEGATION**. Ms. Fair stated she did not recall anyone saying or anyone calling anyone a liar for forgetting to bring their ballots on the day of election. Ms. Fair stated she felt it shouldn't be in the minutes. The Director clarified the statement isn't calling anyone a liar. The Director went on to say Mr. Kemp made the following statement **this would prevent the voter from having to lie about receiving his or her absentee ballot.** Mr. Kemp concurred. Ms. Fair also commented she made a suggestion to start a Community Outreach and she didn't see where this was listed in the minutes. The Director clarified it was listed under **Board Issues and Concerns.** Chairman Arzillo commented the minutes is just a broad overview of what was said and we try not to get too detailed and that's for a reason and if there is a particular detail you (Ms. Fair) are concern about or didn't like we can discuss. Ms. Fair stated she would like the corrections made.

OLD BUSINESS: 2016 GENERAL ELECTION LETTERS OF CONCERN (Sub-Committee: Mr. Crosby; Vice Chairperson Williams and Mrs. Scott): Mr. Crosby stated the Board was issued a copy of all letters and responses from those involve. Mr. Crosby stated if the Board desired each allegation can be seen as an opportunity to examine what we are doing as training and poll workers selections and assignments. Mr. Crosby also stated, the discussion might be wide ranging, some allegations are quite different than others. Ms. Fair stated she read the letters some were made on Commissioners on the Baord and some on the Director. Ms. Fair stated she has seen some history of complaints and no actions have been taken on the complaints. Is there any accountability at all and how do we respond to the community.

OLD BUSINESS: 2016 GENERAL ELECTION LETTERS OF CONCERN (Sub-Committee: Mr. Crosby; Vice Chairperson Williams and Mrs. Scott), Cont'd.: Have we addressed any of these complaints made against the Board or against to the Director. Mr. Crosby commented, the Sub-Committee looked at specific allegations and did not look at any broad ranging complaints from the community. The Sub-Committee received the complaints and contacted the individuals and shared their concerns and findings. Mr. Crosby went on to say, we need to look at areas to improve in training and make changes in procedures at certain polling places in particular. Ms. Fair stated complaints were about communication and training. Ms. Fair went on to say complaints were about how upset persons were about how they were spoken to or how they were treated. Chairman Arzillo stated a lot of these issues would be addressed in training. Ms. Fair stated Communication Skills with the voters and the community needs to be addressed. Mr. Crosby mentioned the Board doing something on how poll workers are assigned and how to prepare to be a poll clerk. Ms. Fair stated issues come about when miscommunication comes up and this is something the Board needs to look at. Mr. Kemp stated he felt the problem is the Board and the Board not being trained in handling some of these issues. Mr. Kemp stated a questionnaire was put out on the State Electionnet website, on how to improve online poll managers training and he suggested to the State to have a video on how to handle these type of situations. Vice Chairperson Williams made a comment on the statement in Allegation #6, ***voters being denied the opportunity to work at the polls.*** She is changing that, what happen at the meeting, the Board should have had two separate votes, but only one vote was taken and a person was denied to work because how the Board handled the matter regarding the family member. The Board made an error on not taking the vote as two separate votes. Mrs. Davidson had a question, Allegation #6. ***Poll worker was incorrectly identified as a family member of a candidate and how was this person identified?*** Mrs. Davidson stated she specifically selected this individual to work the November General Election and this individual had worked the June Primary and Run-off and someone identified this worker was related to a candidate and that's why she was not selected to work. Chairman Arzillo stated this person did in fact work during the June Primary and Run-off and the person worked the November General Election. The Director commented perhaps this identification was brought to the attention of the Board after the Run-off. Mr. Kemp stated he also stated another worker was also identified as possibly related to a candidate during the Primary Election. Vice Chairperson Williams stated the discussion was brought to the Board and discussed in this room and the candidate clarified he was not related to the poll worker. The Board should have held two separate votes. Mr. Catterton stated there were two separate votes. Mr. Crosby stated we need to look at this allegation and look into improving training and procedures. Mr. Crosby stated he didn't think the Board needed to look at each separate allegation that would be very time consuming. Mr. Catterton stated one allegation was generated due to a miscommunication within the Voter Registration Office on misidentifying a poll worker to be related to a candidate. Chairman Arzillo asked are there any recommendations from the Sub-Committee. Mrs. Scott commented the Sub-Committee did list the laws that were broken within each allegation. Mrs. Davidson stated reading over the allegation some are repeats and the Board needs to come up with how to resolve some of these problems.

GOAL COMMITTEE UPDATE: Mr. Kemp stated the Sub-Committee met twice, he, Ms. Fair and Vice Chairperson Williams. The following goal topics were suggested: Education; Security; Community Outreach; Board Guidelines; Office Upgrade and ADA. Mr. Kemp asked the Board to please review and make suggestions. Mr. Kemp suggested starting with Office Upgrade. Several County Council persons asked the Board to present in writing what their priorities were. Each goal should be rated in priority order this would help with moving on to the next goal. Mr. Catterton commended the Sub-Committee for a good job. Ms. Fair stated it's just not the Sub-Committee job to work on these goals, but the entire Board. Each Board member is asked to sign up to serve on any or all of the listed goals. Mr. Kemp asked the Board to review, discuss and add anything they would like to see added to the goals. Mr. Kemp stated he would like to have a person Chair each topic goal and persons works with the Chair of that goal to achieve the goal. Mr. Kemp made a suggestion; Vice Chairperson Williams would like to Chair Security; Ms. Fair would like to Chair Community Outreach and Mr. Kemp would like to Chair Board Guidelines. Ms. Fair stated the Board needed to focus a little bit more on each topic of goals. Mr. Kemp asked the Board to be prepared to discuss prioritizing the goals at our next Board meeting. Mrs. Davidson thanked the Sub-Committee.

DISCUSSION ON 2017 POLLING PLACE ACCESSIBILITY SURVEY: The Director informed the Board 2017 surveys needed to be done and completed by June 30, 2017 on the voting precincts per the State. The Director informed the Board Ms. Maggie Knowles, Rep for Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities, Inc was available if we needed her. Ms. Fair asked about the work and pictures that were done by Mr. Kemp and did the Board needed to go back out again. Chairman Arzillo stated the State is requiring each County to survey their precincts for 2017. Vice Chairperson Williams suggested visiting those precincts that were in question previously. Mrs. Davidson stated Mr. Kemp did go out to all the precincts and prepared a printout and photos of the precincts and is this not enough for the State. The Director stated the survey is slightly different than the survey used in 2015. Each precinct would need to be revisit. Mr. Kemp stated he is willing to revisit the precincts. Chairman Arzillo asked the Board for a date to visit the precinct. Mr. Kemp made a suggestion of placing a post with red radar to identify the 200 feet marker at the precinct on Election Day. Ms. Fair asked once these surveys are done who would receive the report. The Director stated the reports would go to the State and the Board would give a list to the County of all findings and the County would work on those precincts that are owned by the County. Vice Chairperson Williams asked did the survey need to be done on all of our precincts. The Director commented yes. It was decided the Board would meet at the Voter Registration Office on Monday, May 22, 2017 at 9am to visit various precinct.

DISCUSSION OF PRECINCTS RELOCATION: Mrs. Davidson presented the Resolution on Improving Polling Location for the Voters of Jasper County for the second time to the Board, adding Ridgeland 1 and Ridgeland 3 precincts move to the Kingdom Touch Ministries Gym. Mr. Kemp asked for clarification if the Delegation had to approve our recommendations of the precincts relocation. Chairman Arzillo and the Director stated yes the Delegation would have to approve any recommendations made by the Board on relocating precincts.

DISCUSSION OF PRECINCTS RELOCATION, CONT'D. Vice Chairperson Williams voiced her concerns with combining the two Hardeeville precincts. After much discussion it was motioned by Mrs. Davidson and seconded by Mr. Crosby to approve the seconding reading of the Resolution on Improving Polling Locations for the Voters of Jasper County. Motion carried unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: The Director informed the Board Mr. Terrance Foulks; State Area Representative asked that the Board change their Board Attendance statement in our Policy and Procedures Manual under Board Attendance, paragraph two to read as stated in State Law 7-5-10.

The Director asked the Board for a date to have Mr. Terrance Foulks and Mr. Howard Snider of the State Election Commission to come down and visit with the Board at one of the Board's Board meeting.

Vice Chairperson Williams asked if we were normally out of session during the month of July or August. The Director clarified it was always a Board's decision on not holding a meeting.

Mr. Crosby stated that August would be a good month due to the items we need to complete and finalize. The Board agreed to ask Mr. Foulks and Mr. Snider to attend our August Board meeting.

The Director informed the Board of laws being looked at by Legislators;

- Candidate filing opening at 12 noon on the third Friday after the vacancy for a period to close eight (instead of ten) days later
- Special Elections must be held on the twentieth Tuesday (instead of eighteenth) after the vacancy
- and beginning with special elections for which candidates filing begins on or after January 1, 2018, candidates cannot be deemed elected if only one candidate files and no one declares as a write-in candidate. This applies to special elections and municipal general elections.

The Director informed the Board of her meeting and training in Columbia Friday and Monday.

Total registered voters as of April 30, 2017: 18,482.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: None.

BOARD ISSUES AND CONCERNS: Mr. Kemp mentioned he would be in the Duties of Board training course on Monday. Mr. Kemp asked the Board to visit the State Electionnet website and voice your suggestions for the new Online Poll Managers training. Mr. Kemp mentioned he helped will going through the files at the Voter Registration Office and notice birth date years and there are several persons he was checking if they were decease based on the birth date and year.

TOPIC(S) OF DISCUSSION FOR NEXT MEETING:

- Goals
- Resolution of Discussion on Motions.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. Milton Woods commented after hearing our discussion on persons with the same last name of candidates working as poll workers, did anyone bring up the name Jenkins there were several persons with the name Jenkins that served as poll workers.

Mr. Woods commented on the letter of response from the Chairman of the Board on complaints. Mr. Woods said several complaints have been submitted to this Board. Mr. Woods stated he has asked over and over to have equal and fair representation of poll workers. If past problems have been dealt with fairly most of these problems would have not been brought to the Board. Mr. Woods stated he feels it was self intent having all those teenagers at the Mt. Carmel voting precinct.

Mrs. Carmen Malphrus stated she was the poll worker with the last name Malphrus the same as the candidate Chris Malphrus. Mrs. Malphrus stated she's a Jasper County resident, moved away, studied law and moved back to Jasper, loves her county and loves working in the community in her county.

Mrs. Malphrus stated she felt like she was mistreated because of her last name. Mrs. Malphrus stated the Director had asked Mrs. Malphrus was she related to the candidate and Mrs. Malphrus stated she told the Director she didn't know the candidate. Mrs. Malphrus stated she felt the sub-committee was misinformed on her relationship to the candidate, however, the Board met and the decided Mrs. Malphrus would serve as a poll worker.

Mrs. Malphrus thanked Vice Chairperson Williams for her comments earlier.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business motioned to adjourned by Mrs. Davidson, seconded by Mr. Crosby. The meeting adjourn at 6:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by: Jeanine M. Bostick, Director

cc: File, Board, Judy Frank, Clerk of Council; Helen Pittman; Jasper Delegation and Mr. Andy Fulghum, County Administrator.