

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Addison Lester, Chairman
Darryl Hicks
Aaron Wright

FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Floyd L Jones, Director
April Crosby, Elections Supervisor
Brian Hill, County Registrar



140 Stonewall Avenue West
Elections Office, Suite 208
Fayetteville, GA 30214

MINUTES

April 23, 2019
5:00 p.m.

Welcome to the meeting of your Fayette County Board of Elections. Your participation is appreciated. All regularly scheduled Board meetings are open to the public and are generally held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman to Call the Meeting to Order

Chairman Lester called the April 23, 2019 Board of Elections meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Wright moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Mr. Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Peggy Hamm: Ms. Hamm asked how the training went in Jekyll Island during the month of March. Director Jones replied that would be discussed during New Business.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consideration of staff's request to approve the February 26, 2019 Board of Elections' Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Wright moved to approve the February 26, 2019 Board of Elections Meeting Minutes as presented. Mr. Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

PUBLIC HEARING:

2. Public Hearing of staff's recommendation to remove registered Fayette County voters from the Electors List who are registered in the State of Georgia's Secretary of State Voter Registration System as deceased.

Chairman Lester noted the list of deceased voters was longer than normal since there was no meeting held in March.

Mr. Wright moved to remove the deceased voters as recommended. Mr. Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 1," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

3. Public Hearing of staff's recommendation to remove registered Fayette County voters from the Electors List who are registered in the State of Georgia's Secretary of State Voter Registration System as felons.

Director Jones pointed out that the list of felons is shorter than typical and that he would explain during the Director's Report.

Mr. Hicks moved to remove the felons from the Elector's List as recommended. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 2," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

CONSENT AGENDA:

There were no Consent Agenda Items.

OLD BUSINESS:

4. Continued discussion concerning Precincts #20 (Windgate) and #33 (Camp Creek) and the possibility of using Southside Church as a polling location for Precinct #33.

Director Jones reminded the Board that this matter was discussed at the February 2019 meeting. He stated that the polling location for precincts #20 and #33 are conjoined and have been that way since 2016. He stated that he went to the Evergreen Church, which serves as the polling location for both precincts, and he reported there was limited parking. He stated that additional research indicates that Evergreen Church is now the home to Landmark Christian School. He said that made since now since it appeared about half of the parking is dedicated to the school.

Director Jones stated that April Crosby has contacted Southside Church about the possibility of using that location for Precinct #33. He reminded that Board that a similar request was made of the church in 2017 by Leigh Combs at which time the church was open to be used as a polling location as soon as they no longer housed Landmark Christian School. He said the person who is tentatively in charge of the church will be talking to church leadership today and there may be an answer forthcoming very soon. Mr. Jones added that the church is huge and, if the state ever adopts the "vote center" methodology then it would potentially serve as a great vote center location.

Chairman Lester asked what the fallback plan is if the church does not allow voting at its location. Director Jones stated he had the GIS information that was provided to him that suggested Luther Glass Park and a condominium club house as potential locations in Precinct #33. He stated that his initial review of Luther Glass Park is that has gazebos for picnicking but nothing conducive for voting. He added that the club house also looked inadequate since he counted only ten parking spaces for voters to use on Election Day. He concluded that if the church does not allow voting there would be a real problem on where to send people to vote in that precinct. Mr. Jones added that if the church does not allow voting then the last resort would be to combine Precincts #20 and #33. By combining the two, it would make two smaller precincts into one large precinct but it would help alleviate voter confusion on Election Day. Mr. Hicks added that if that step were taken it would require additional input from the county and would require public buy-in. Mr. Jones agreed and it was emphasized by all that combining the precincts is the last option for consideration.

The Board did not take action or provide direction on this matter. A copy of this request, identified as "Attachment 3," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

NEW BUSINESS:

5. Discussion of House Bill 316.

Director Jones stated that the information provided in the Agenda packet was provided to the Board of Commissioners at the 2019 Retreat, and he stated that House Bill 316 entailed a large portion of training at the GEOA / VRAG Conference in Jekyll Island. Mr. Jones then quickly went through the various changes to elections in House Bill 316 as well as the benefits and concerns of the House Bill. Discussion followed concerning the impact of O.C.G.A. 21-2-367(b).

The Board did not provide direction or take action on this matter.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- a. **Felon Records:** Director Jones stated that the Secretary of State's Office is updating ElectionNet (ENet) to accommodate the new requirements with respect to felons. Until the update is complete, there will be few if any felons provided to be considered for removal from the Electors List.
- b. **Failed Verification Change:** Director Jones reported ElectionNet (ENET) is also being updated to accommodate the changes to the verification process in House Bill 316. After this change is implemented, voters that fail verification for First Name, Last Name, Date of Birth, Driver's License, or Social Security Number will no longer be placed in "Pending" status but instead the voter will be shown as "Active" with the Missing Identification Required (MIDR) flag.
- c. **National Change of Address:** Director Jones reported that the Office of the Secretary of State plans to begin the National Change of Address (NCOA) process this month. The NCOA process uses information provided by the United States Postal Service to identify voters that have moved. The NCOA process has been updated since it was last run in 2017. There will now be two separate tracks for voters that update their addresses, depending on whether they moved out of their current registered county or within the county. Director Jones described how the new process would work. He added that while some counties may get their NCOA lists soon, all counties are requested not to begin processing them until all counties have been provided their information- meaning while Fayette may be provided NCOA information next week the processing of the information may take place two months from now after all counties have been provided information.
- d. **Cyber-Security:** Director Jones reminded the Board that at the GEOA / VRAG Conference, there was recommendation that the Elections Offices have membership with MS-ISAC. When this recommendation was given, only 10 Georgia counties were part of MS-ISAC. Fayette County has been part of MS-ISAC for approximately a year by means of its Information Technology Department. As of last week, 30 counties had joined MS-ISAC.
- e. **New Voting Machines:** Director Jones reported that proposals from voting machine vendors are due on April 23 (today.) Once received, the proposals will be evaluated by an evaluation committee. The evaluation review will take several weeks. A public announcement of the notice of intent to award the contract is expected to be made near the end of June or early July. He also mentioned that in his discussion with the state last week, it was certainly implied that the new machines would not be delivered to Fayette in time for the November municipal election.
- f. **New Committees:** Director Jones reported that a couple of weeks ago, I received an email from the GEOA / VRAG leadership about available committees. The Georgia Election Officials and Voter Registration Association of Georgia have joined together- hence we have only one annual conference instead of two conferences. This combination of the two bodies is now being referred to as the "Georgia Association of Voter Registration and Election Officials" or "GAVROE." This reorganization has also resulted in the previous committees either being scrapped or getting an overhaul. On April 12, election officials from around the state received an email describing the available committees and asking for volunteers to select their top three choices for assignment. I have chosen the following:
 - a. **Legislative Committee:** Tracks proposed legislation at both the state and federal level; attempts to hold meeting(s) with Secretary of State Election Division prior to each legislative session, keeps membership informed of issues.
 - b. **By-laws:** Studies and recommends any changes to the by-laws for consideration by the membership at the annual business meeting. Any proposed changes must be provided to the membership no later than 14 days prior to the start of the annual conference. The chair will update any changes voted upon at the annual business meeting and the amended by-laws will be provided to the Executive Board and Association members.
 - c. **Nominating Committee:** A nominating committee of seven (7) members shall be elected by the membership in each year for the purpose of nominating officers of the Association. The Chairperson will be appointed from this committee by the President of the Association.

Decisions on membership will be provided in the coming month.

- g. Karen Hunter Resignation:** Director Jones reported that Chief Deputy Registrar Karen Hunter has formally resigned her position as Chief Deputy Registrar. Her reason for leaving is the incredibly long commute from Newnan to work each day-one hour drive each way. Her last day will be May 31, 2019. The job vacancy has been placed on the County's website and has been issued through Firefly. In the coming weeks, Brian and I will interview applicants with an eye toward hiring. Director Jones confirmed that this position would not need Board input and that the hiring decision would lie with him and County Registrar Brian Hill.
- h. House Bill 392:** Director Jones stated House Bill 392 has also been signed into law that basically increases security and cyber-security for elections. He did not recall this bill being discussed at Jekyll Island and he was not aware of its existence until very recently. He provided each Board member with a copy of the bill and an article from the Atlanta Journal-Constitution regarding the bill.

ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

There was no Attorney's Report.

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:

Jekyll Island Conference and House Bill 316: Mr. Wright stated that the Jekyll Island Conference was good and informative. He stated that he was not happy with some of the aspects involved in House Bill 316 but that, overall, the bill took a number of needed steps with regard to elections.

Meeting Regarding Polling Locations: Chairman Lester reminded the Board that he and Mr. Jones met with Commission Chairman Randy Ognio, Vice-Chairman Charles Oddo, County Administrator Steve Rapson, and County Attorney Dennis Davenport. He said he spoke to each board member individually. He said the county leadership was "entrenched" with the concept of not having early voting continue in the Public Meeting Room. He reported that Mr. Rapson is very willing to work with the Board of Elections to find alternative locations. In the meantime, early voting for the municipal elections will continue on the second floor of the Administrative Complex. The concern is with the Presidential Primary Election. Director Jones was directed to engage the school board about alternative locations. It was also noted that movement on the study of Fire Station #4 is stalled since the only person able to run the software for the study is out on leave. There was discussion that the bus barn could be used temporarily. Other discussion followed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Chairman Lester moved to recess into Executive Session. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Members of the audience were asked to leave the meeting room in order to conduct Executive Session. The Board members, Director Jones, and Assistant County Attorney Patrick Stough entered Executive Session at 5:38 p.m.

Mr. Hicks moved to come out of Executive Session and to return to Official Session. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. The Board exited Executive Session at 5:41 p.m.

February 26, 2019 Executive Session Minutes: Chairman Lester moved to approve the February 26, 2019 Executive Session Minutes of the Board of Elections. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

April 23, 2019 Executive Session Affidavit: Mr. Hicks moved to approve the Executive Session Affidavit. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. A copy of the Executive Session Affidavit, identified as "Attachment 4," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Wright moved to adjourn the April 23, 2019 Board of Elections Meeting. Mr. Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

The April 23, 2019 Board of Elections Meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

Floyd L. Jones, Director

Addison Lester, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Elections of Fayette County, Georgia, held on the 25th day of June 2019. Referenced attachments are available upon request in the Board of Elections' Office.

Floyd L. Jones, Director