

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

September 24, 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 September 24, 2019 Board of Elections meeting to order at 4:57 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Peggy Hamm: Ms. Hamm asked if the Board of Elections had changed Public Comments from the beginning of the meeting to the end of the meeting during its August 2019 meeting. The Board replied that it had not made that motion and clarified that Public Comments were still at the beginning of the meeting.

Brenda Cox: Ms. Cox mentioned that some people do not know they can register to vote online and she wanted to know if there was any public awareness campaign. The Board replied that registering to vote online has been in place for about five years and information about how to register to vote online is on the county's website.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consideration of staff's request to approve the September 6, 2019 Board of Elections' Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the September 6, 2019 Board of Elections Meeting Minutes. Mr. Wright 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.**

No one spoke during Public Hearing.

Mr. Wright moved to approve 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. 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.**

No one spoke during Public Hearing.

Director Jones reported there had been an unusual number of people who matched certain criteria as potential felons who have responded back to Elections Office saying they are not felons. He explained that each person who meets certain match points are notified by mail that the system has matched them as a potential felon. This starts a 40-day clock in which the person can reply to the felon notice. Mr. Jones stated that when a person returns to the Elections Office saying they are not a felon they can have a hearing with the Board of Elections to remain on the voter roll, however, the law does not provide guidance on what information is needed- only that a hearing is to be held. Further, he reported that the state has guidance provided on its website stating that the person or the Elections Office can research further to determine if the person is indeed a felon. Mr. Jones added that the majority of persons receiving the letters had not yet replied to the county, however, there had been a much larger number of replies to the county of people saying the felon status was incorrect. Mr. Jones replied that when staff contacted the court system staff was informed that those claiming not to be felons were not felons.

The Board and Mr. Jones agreed that removing someone from the voter rolls was a serious matter- especially if the removal is based on faulty data. The Board further directed Mr. Jones to look deeper into the matter and determine what the underlying cause could be in order to ensure the information presented to the Board is reliable.

Mr. Hicks moved to not approve the felon list until Mr. Jones has the opportunity to review and get answers. 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 was no Consent Agenda item.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- 4. Consideration of staff's recommendation to adopt the Calendar Year 2020 Board of Elections' Meeting Schedule.**

Director Jones provided his customary caveat that the dates for the 2020 Calendar Year Meeting Schedule are subject to change as needed or required.

Mr. Wright moved to adopt the Calendar Year 2020 Board of Elections' Meeting Schedule. Chairman Lester seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 3," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

5. Update concerning the November 5, 2019 Municipal Elections.

Director Jones reported that the information provided to the Board is information going to the Election's website for public information. He explained that all available offices in the towns of Brooks and Woolsey had one qualified candidate with no opposition and, therefore, there would be no need to conduct municipal elections for those towns. He explained that all unopposed candidates are deemed having voted for themselves and are consequently elected into office. Director Jones added that both the mayors of Fayetteville and Tyrone were unopposed, however, since both municipalities have other candidates on the ballot both mayors would also be on their respective ballots as unopposed candidates. The Board took no action on this matter. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 4," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

6. Consideration of staff's recommendation to approve Poll Managers, Assistant Poll Managers, and Clerks for the November 5, 2019 General Municipal Election and December 1, 2019 General Municipal Runoff Election as necessary.

Director Jones stated that this request was routine since it is required of the Board to approve poll worker positions. Mr. Wright noted there had been a problematic poll worker in the past and he asked if she was slated to work the municipal election. Director Jones replied that poll worker was not recommended to work the election.

Mr. Hicks moved to approve the Poll Managers, Assistant Poll Managers, and Clerks for the November 5, 2019 General Municipal Election and December 1, 2019 General Municipal Runoff Election as necessary. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 5," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Update on the October 1, 2019 Special Called Runoff Election: Director Jones reported that Advanced In-Person (early) Voting began on Wednesday, September 18 in Fayette County. He further reported that as of the close of polling on September 23, 2019 only twelve (12) Fayette County voters had actually voted.

Mandatory Training: Director Jones reported that Elections staff will attend mandatory training at the Secretary of State's Office in Atlanta from October 8 through October 9. He did not know the actual times for the training. He reported that the training was concerning the new state Elections equipment that will be used first for the March 2020 Presidential Preference Primary.

Storage of New Equipment: Mr. Jones reported that approximately a week earlier he and Chairman Lester had met with County Administrator Steve Rapson, County Commission Chairman Randy Ognio, and some Finance staff to consider the implications of the new voting machines and storage of the equipment. In the discussion, three locations were presented as potential storage sites: South Fayette Water Treatment Plant, Crosstown Water Treatment Plant, and the third floor of the Fayette County Courthouse. Director Jones reported that there were several reasons why the South Fayette Water Treatment Plant was not a viable storage location. He stated that the third floor of the County Courthouse was a potential location but there are hurdles to consider including security concerns and operating hours. He reported that the most viable option of the three locations was at the Crosstown Water Treatment Plant. He explained that there was some space in an area known as the Chemical Building Lime Room. He reported that the room was air conditioned, did not contain chemicals, but that there were well-contained chemicals in other parts of the building. He provided pictures to the Board of the room and the building's loading dock. He said he had spoken to County Administrator Steve Rapson about the findings earlier in the morning after weekly Department Head meeting and that the Crosstown Water Treatment Plant option seemed the most likely. Director Jones stated that as far as he was aware there were no other options available to him for storage purposes. Discussion followed about the possibility of obtaining a donated trailer or researching how much it would cost to rent or purchase a trailer. Director Jones replied that he had looked into the possibility of obtaining a donated trailer earlier in the summer but only found trailers in similar condition to the Elections trailer. The Board questioned when Fire Station #4 would be renovated and

was reminded that renovation is still at least a year and a half away. The pressing problem was new equipment is coming from the state, the state has been asking for over a week where to send the equipment, and there is still no clear answer. Discussion followed.

The Board expressed displeasure in the lack of apparent options and agreed among themselves they would contact the individual County Commissioners for additional options. Mr. Hicks added he would call County Administrator Steve Rapson to discuss the matter with him.

The Board further asked Mr. Jones to look into the costs of renting a trailer for storage of elections equipment.

ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

There were no Attorney's Reports.

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:

Aaron Wright: Mr. Wright thanked Ms. Brenda Cox for doing a great job hosting the Voter Education Forum.

Addison Lester: Chairman Lester asked Director Jones where the matter stood of finding a new polling location for Precinct #20. Mr. Jones replied that that issue was no longer at the top of his priority list, but that he had made a cold call on Arbor Terrace to meet with the person in charge. He said the person who could make the decision was unavailable at that time, but that the Event Coordinator had indicated some potential in using the facility.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Wright moved to adjourn the September 24, 2019 Board of Elections Meeting. Mr. Hicks seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

The September 24, 2019 Board of Elections Meeting adjourned at 5:38 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 4th day of October 2019. Referenced attachments are available upon request in the Board of Elections' Office.

Floyd L. Jones, Director