

***FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
AND VOTER REGISTRATION***

***SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
MINUTES***

*June 14, 2016
5:00 P.M.*

Board Members Present: Darryl Hicks, Chairman
Addison Lester
Aaron Wright

Staff Present: Tom Sawyer, Elections Supervisor
Leigh Combs, Elections Officer
April Crosby, Elections Officer
Beverly Westmoreland, Part-time Elections Clerk

Others in Attendance: Dennis Davenport, County Attorney

Chairman Hicks called the June 14, 2016 Special Called Board of Election meeting to order at approximately 5:00 p.m.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hicks called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 p.m.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Wright made the motion to approve the agenda and Member Lester seconded. **Motion carried.**

C. CONSIDERATION OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ELECTIONS SUPERVISOR,

SPECIFICALLY AS IT RELATES TO THE INPUT OF THE PAYROLL INFORMATION FOR THE MOST RECENT PAY PERIOD

Chairman Hicks spoke to Attorney Davenport regarding allegations about Supervisor Sawyer's performance duties and asked if he should recuse himself at this point since he was the "fact witness". Attorney Davenport said he should recuse himself and move physically away from the other two Board members. Supervisor Sawyer would be given an opportunity to rebut allegations brought before the Board by Chairman Hicks.

Member Lester asked Chairman Hicks to report on the facts of allegations. Chairman Hicks said that this was not personal about Supervisor Tom Sawyer. He said, historically, the Board has had a challenge with Supervisor Sawyer providing minutes within 10 days of a Board meeting. He said Supervisor Sawyer does not provide an agenda in a timely manner. Also, Supervisor Sawyer was asked to provide cross training in the office and that has not occurred. Chairman Hicks said he had asked Supervisor Sawyer to communicate and this has not occurred consistently.

Chairman Hicks said there were issues with getting the Budget entered. He also cited the billing of municipalities was not done in a timely manner. He mentioned that the Board had spoken to Supervisor Sawyer and put him on a 90 day performance improvement plan which he has not adhered to.

Chairman Hicks said he got a call from Human Resources on May 31, 2016 saying that the payroll was not done. He said when he called Supervisor Sawyer to ask the reason, Supervisor Sawyer replied with a question of which priority was more important ... the payroll or the update of the map on the County website.

Chairman Hicks continued with allegations regarding the voice mail not being updated, nor the website. He also cited a particular response that Supervisor Sawyer had given to a citizen regarding the problem of re-districting.

Supervisor Sawyer was given a time to respond and he said that he had a stroke in March and gave the history of the problem of getting permission to return back to work after being hospitalized and going through rehabilitation. Supervisor Sawyer said he knew there were redistricting issues that occurred during his absence.

Supervisor Sawyer said regarding the payroll issue, he was unable to get into the payroll program because of password issues with the computer program. He said because of these issues, he had called Brady in the Human Resources Department at 10:00 a.m. on May 31, 2016 and asked her to approve the payroll and she did. Because of this issue, he was unable to look at the payroll but knew if there were any problems, they would get corrected on the next payroll date.

Supervisor Sawyer said he felt if the Board had come in and helped during the time he was out sick with the re-districting, things would have been different.

Chairman Hicks said it was not an issue with Supervisor Sawyer being sick, it was a problem with him delegating and multi-tasking with the duties of the office.

Supervisor Sawyer spoke about the problem of getting ready for the May 26, 2016 General Primary and the issue of re-districting as being an overload for the Elections Office. He said that he was not aware of any issues with the staff.

Chairman Hicks said it wasn't his job to micro-manage the staff.

Member Wright asked if there were any other comments and there were none.

Member Wright closed the debate on that agenda item.

Member Lester made the motion to go into Executive Session; Member Wright seconded at approximately 5:30 p.m. **Motion carried.**

At approximately 5:57 p.m., Member Wright made the motion to come out of Executive Session. Member Lester seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Member Wright said the decision was to terminate Supervisor Sawyer immediately and made the motion to do so. Member Lester seconded. **Motion carried.**

Member Wright asked Officer Combs to get Supervisor Sawyer's P-Card and his Employee ID Badge.

D. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

E. ADJOURNMENT

Member Lester made the motion to adjourn at approximately 6:03 p.m.; Member Wright seconded. **Motion carried.**