

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Darryl Hicks, Chairman
Addison Lester
Aaron Wright

FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Floyd L. Jones, Elections Supervisor
Leigh Combs, Elections Officer
April Crosby, Elections Officer



140 Stonewall Avenue West
Public Meeting Room
Fayetteville, GA 30214

MINUTES

January 17, 2017

Chairman to Call the Meeting to Order

Chairman Hicks called the January 17, 2017 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. Lester asked for an update concerning new precincts. It was agreed that the update could be provided during the Board report.

Mr. Wright moved to approve the Agenda with the addition to discuss precincts under Board Reports. Mr. Lester seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No one spoke during Public Comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Approval of the November 15, 2016 Board of Elections Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Wright moved to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Lester stated he would abstain from the vote since he did not attend the November 15, 2016 meeting. Chairman Hicks seconded the motion.

Mr. Lester stated the word "redistricting" was used in the minutes, but he thought the intention was for the words "precinct lines." He cautioned that there needed to be sensitivity to how the word "redistricting" is used based on the county's recent history.

Chairman Hicks asked if the minutes could be corrected to strike out "redistricting" and to replace the word with "precinct locations." Elections Supervisor Floyd Jones stated that correction could be made.

Mr. Wright amended his motion to include that adjustment. Chairman Hicks seconded the amended motion. The motion passed 2-0-1 with Mr. Lester abstaining from the vote.

PUBLIC HEARING:

- 2. Public Hearing of staff's recommendation to remove registered Fayette County votes from the Elector's List who are registered in the State of Georgia's Secretary of State Voter Registration System as either deceased or as felons.**

(It is noted there was no one in the audience to speak in favor of or in opposition to staff's recommendation for either the deceased list or the felons list.)

Mr. Lester moved to approve staff's recommendation to remove registered Fayette County voters from the Elector's List who are registered in the State of Georgia's Secretary of State Voter Registration System as deceased. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Wright moved to approve staff's recommendation to remove registered Fayette County voters from the Elector's List who are registered in the State of Georgia's Secretary of State Voter Registration System as felons. Mr. Lester seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

There were no items on the Consent Agenda.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 3. Continued discussion concerning the wearing of political attire and campaigning at polling locations. This item was last discussed during the November 15, 2016 Board of Elections meeting.**

Assistant County Attorney Patrick Stough briefed the Board on matters concerning wearing of political attire and campaigning at polling locations.

The Board asked for council to return with fine-tuned answers concerning political t-shirts.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 4. Approval of the Calendar Year 2017 Board of Elections Meeting Schedule.**

Mr. Wright moved to approve the calendar as presented.

Mr. Lester stated he had a conflict for the February meeting and he asked for the date to be changed to February 21, 2017.

Mr. Wright amended his motion to approve the calendar and to amend the February 28, 2017 meeting date to February 21, 2017. Mr. Lester seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- 5. Consideration of staff's recommendation to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Fayetteville for the purpose of conducting the city's 2017 municipal election(s), and authorization for the Elections Supervisor to attest said agreement.**

Mr. Lester moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement related to the City of Fayetteville. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Consideration of staff's recommendation to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Peachtree City for the purpose of conducting the city's 2017 municipal election(s), and authorization for the Elections Supervisor to attest said agreement.

Mr. Wright moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Peachtree City. Mr. Lester seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Consideration of staff's recommendation to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of Tyrone for the purpose of conducting the town's 2017 municipal election(s), and authorization for the Elections Supervisor to attest said agreement.

Mr. Lester moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of Tyrone. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Consideration of staff's recommendation to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of Brooks for the purpose of conducting the town's 2017 municipal election(s), and authorization for the Elections Supervisor to attest said agreement.

Mr. Wright moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of Brooks. Mr. Lester seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Consideration of staff's recommendation to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of Woolsey for the purpose of conducting the town's 2017 municipal election(s), and authorization for the Elections Supervisor to attest said agreement.

Mr. Lester moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of Woolsey. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Copies of the request and Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of Woolsey, identified as "Attachment 8," follow these minutes and are made an official part hereof.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Report on the 2017 SPLOST Referendum: Elections Supervisor Floyd Jones stated that the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) question had been received for the pending SPLOST referendum. He stated that the question and title has been sent to Kennesaw State University so that the work on building the ballot can begin. He reported that there is no finality to the question until February 9, 2017 when the Board of Commissioners formally calls the question for the SPLOST.

Updates to the Elections Website: Elections Supervisor Floyd Jones reported that he had put in several work orders over the previous days to update the Elections website. He explained there is some information that is unknown at this time and therefore cannot be put on the website at this time. He said if someone goes to the Elections website they will start to get a sense of how the February elections will occur.

Posting Poll Workers and Poll Managers Applications to the Elections Board Website: Elections Supervisor Floyd Jones stated that he had taken the time to read the minutes from the Board of Elections for the previous four years. He noticed there was discussion at one time about placing poll workers and poll manager applications on the Elections website, but there appeared to be no final Board decision on proceeding with that practice. He stated it would be a good idea since it would help provide depth into the poll worker's ranks, and he asked for the Board's approval on the matter.

Mr. Wright asked Elections Officer April Crosby about the suggestion. Mrs. Crosby agreed with the recommendation. She added that there have been several notifications of poll workers retiring. The Board agreed to the recommendation as presented.

Report on Numbers of Precincts and Machines for the Pending SPLOST Election: Elections Supervisor Floyd Jones briefed the Board on the numbers of precincts and machines to be made available on Election Day.

Update on Direct Deposit: Elections Supervisor Floyd Jones stated that one question that came to him almost immediately in his new position concerned moving the poll workers paid by direct deposit. He explained that there are problems associated with cutting paper checks. He reported that in consulting with both the Finance Department and Human Resources and he found that current poll workers cannot be made to go to direct deposit but future poll workers can be made to go to direct deposit. He stated that he has asked for the process to begin and through the course of time everyone will be on direct deposit.

Chairman Hicks asked if the current poll workers would be asked if they wanted to be on direct deposit. Mr. Jones replied they would be given the option but they cannot be forced into direct deposit. Chairman Hicks suggested there could be a good number of current poll workers who will take the option of direct deposit.

The Board agreed to the recommendation as presented.

Report on Elections Office Renovations: Elections Supervisor Floyd Jones briefed the Board on potential renovations in the Elections Office.

Nameplates on the Dais: Elections Supervisor Floyd Jones stated there would be nameplates on the dais for the next Board of Elections meeting.

Kudos to the Elections Department: Elections Supervisor Floyd Jones stated that earlier in the day he attended a reception marking his ten-year anniversary working for Fayette County. During the reception he was approached by several people who praised the Elections Department. He stated that if there is an issue or a problem in the department then it lands on him, but the goodness of the department comes from a team effort.

Update on the Job Survey: Elections Supervisor Floyd Jones and Chairman Hicks briefed the Board on the on-going job survey for the position of Elections Supervisor.

ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

There was no Attorney's Report.

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:

Precinct Report: Mr. Lester asked what the work plan for redrawing the precinct lines was. Elections Supervisor Floyd Jones stated that the issue had not been on the top of his agenda since he was still somewhat getting in the door. He said he had some individual thoughts concerning the precincts and that he would be glad to talk to the Board members individually about the matter.

Chairman Hicks suggested pulling out some information on precincts. Mr. Jones suggested that the issue could be brought back roughly in March. Mr. Lester added that the review needed to include information on when changes need to be made. He added he would be glad to have individual discussions prior to having a formal meeting on the subject.

Attendance at the Democratic Party's Breakfast: Mr. Wright stated that Elections Supervisor Floyd Jones went to the Democratic Party's Saturday Meeting and was very well received. He stated that the Chairman of the Democratic Party sent a nice email thanking him for his attendance. Mr. Wright stated he received several personal reach outs as well thanking him for attending. He said he looked forward to Mr. Jones attending the Republican Party in either February or March.

Chairman Hicks stated that during the Democratic meeting, the Democratic Chairman Leonard Presburg really praised what the Elections Office has done. He said the department received a lot of praise that day. He said everyone one in the room knows what staff does in ensuring the elections are carried out fairly, objectively, and consistently.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Wright moved to adjourn the January 17, 2017 Board of Elections meeting. Mr. Lester seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The January 17, 2017 Board of Elections meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

Floyd L. Jones, Elections Supervisor