

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Regular Business Meeting
4:30 p.m.

April 11, 2017

SUMMARY MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Dorothy Hall, Vice-Chairman Harry Osborne, Secretary Ruth Ash, Board Member Patricia Pullar, Director Shauna Dozier, Elections and Registration Official Supervisor Kamardi Carter, and Clerk Allison Ruotolo. NOT PRESENT: Board Member Carol Wesley.

1. Chairman Hall called the meeting to order.
2. Moment of silence observed.
3. Motion by Secretary Ash Board, second by Vice-Chairman Osborne, to adopt the agenda for the April 11, 2017 Regular Business Meeting of the Board of Elections and Registration. Vote unanimous.
4. Motion by Vice-Chairman Osborne, second by Secretary Ash, to amend and approve the minutes of the March 14, 2017 Regular Business Meeting of the Board of Elections and Registration to represent the votes in item numbers 3, 4, 6, 13,14, and adjournment to be unanimous; and not reflect an absence. Vote unanimous.
5. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.
6. Old Business:
 - A. Response from Senior Staff Attorney Shalanda Miller.

No discussion among the Board of the opinion of Ms. Miller regarding the Bylaws of the Clayton County Board of Elections and Registration. The record shall reflect Vice-Chairman Osborne's statement of a difference of opinion.

7. New Business:
 - A. Director's Report.
 - B. High School Voter Registration Month.
 - C. Municipal Redistricting.
 - D. Approved Legislation.
 - E. 2017 GEOA Conference.
 - F. Hearing to remove felons from elector's list.
 - G. Hearing to remove deceased voters from elector's list.
8. Director Dozier stated as of April 1, 2017 there are 176,742 registered voters to include 146,161 active voters and 30,581 inactive voters.
9. Ms. Dozier stated there was legislation regarding the redistricting of the City of Riverdale not noted in the agenda that would be discussed during the meeting.
10. Director Dozier informed the Board the office has been active with voter education and community outreach events in the County.
11. Vice-Chairman Osborne inquired about the two vacant part-time positions.

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Director Dozier explained the positions are for Deputy Registrars and have been left vacant in hopes of creating one permanent position.

Board Member Pullar asked if there are not any Deputy Registrars, who is presently taking care of that.

Ms. Dozier explained there is an active list of Deputy Registrars that conduct voter registration drives on behalf of the office and the staff also conducts voter registration. Deputy Registrar is the title of the two positions that worked in the front office.

12. Director Dozier introduced the new Elections and Registration Official Supervisor, Kamardi Carter.

13. Ms. Dozier stated April is designated as High School Voter Registration month and she is scheduled to meet with Ms. Regina Wallace, the Regional Coordinator for Clayton County Schools, to renew the annual Deputy Registrar training for the teachers. Also, Solicitor General Mosley has expressed interest in joining Ms. Dozier in speaking engagements with the students and moving forward Ms. Mosley will work with Ms. Dozier during High School Voter Registration Month and voter education in the county.

Director Dozier stated the contact she had for campus life to conduct Deputy Registrar training for the colleges is no longer there, but she does have new contact information and is waiting to hear back to conduct training at Clayton State University.

Board Member Pullar stated there were a couple of school board members interested in the deputy thing and since Solicitor General Mosley is doing it, she would like for Director Dozier to reach out to the school board members because they too wanted to do this voter registration as well. If they are deputized, Ms. Pullar does not see any reason why they should not be able to do that. Ms. Pullar requested Director Dozier reach out to all school board members so they all have the same opportunity, but she knows of two that really want to do that. Ms. Pullar stated she does not want to say just call the two, contact the entire body.

14. Director Dozier stated the City of Riverdale did have legislation out. House Bill 548 was approved and has been sent to the Governor's Office to create four wards. Legislation did not pass for the City of Jonesboro, City of Morrow, and the City of Lovejoy; therefore, redistricting will only be conducted for the City of Riverdale pending the Governor's signature.

Ms. Dozier stated she has not received the shapefiles she requested at this time.

Director Dozier stated training and the plan for redistricting will begin next week as the changes will go into effect for the November Election.

Director Dozier stated City of Riverdale wards one and three will be up for election in the November election and wards two and four will be elected in the November 2019 election.

Ms. Dozier stated redistricting activities, training, planning, and implementation will be completed by the end of the summer in preparation of the City of Riverdale's qualifying. Ms.

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Dozier has been in contact with the municipal clerk in Riverdale to meet about redistricting and the election as the county is contracted to conduct their elections through December 2017.

15. Director Dozier stated there were two election bills that passed in the 2017 General Assembly. One was House Bill 42 now Act 7 because it has been signed by the Governor. It states if election superintendents make a mistake, they have the authority to make the changes and feasibility to conduct special elections in conjunction with federal or state special elections.

Ms. Dozier stated she has not met with Attorney Miller so this is her interpretation of the legislation, but she will meet with Ms. Miller. The legislation will be discussed at the GEOA Conference as well.

House Bill 268 the SOS Housekeeping Bill has been sent to the Governor as of April 7, 2017, but has not been signed yet. Some highlights include newly hired election officials have a six month time period to become certified. In the past, certification had to be completed by December 31 of the year they were hired. A person who is disabled or listed as elderly and has submitted an absentee ballot application only needs to submit the one application in a presidential election year. Before, a separate application had to be submitted for each election. Certain types of identification have been changed during voting. Establishing polling locations outside of the precinct boundary lines have to be approved by the State Elections Board. Ms. Dozier stated with the assistance of Attorney Miller and the GEOA Conference she should be able to outline the nineteen page bill.

Board Member Pullar stated there are a couple of things in House Bill 268 she is vague on. One is revises establishing polling locations and boundaries not earlier than 90 days prior to an election for such polling location(s) outside the boundaries of the precinct line to the State Election Board.

Director Dozier stated this is in reference to having to sometimes make polling place changes and not having an adequate precinct that can be used within the precinct boundary lines. Sometimes an adjustment has to be made outside the precinct boundary lines. Ms. Dozier understands no changes can be made 90 days prior to an election. Justification has to be submitted to the State Election Board to show just cause or proof there is nothing within the precinct boundary lines that can be utilized.

Board Member Pullar stated the other one is about limiting the number of poll workers, watchers, and law enforcement officers in the polling place.

Director Dozier stated from what she has read there is not a number, but it does give the poll workers authority to determine how many people if they are not certified poll watchers.

Board Member Pullar stated it sounds arbitrary. As if they want to set someone up to really have a conflict without having something definitive in terms of a number.

Ms. Dozier read from House Bill 268 except for credentialed poll watchers, poll workers, and law enforcement officers, poll workers may manage the number of persons allowed in the polling place to prevent confusion, congestion, and inconvenience to voters.

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Board Member Pullar stated that it reads clearer from the actual bill.

Chairman Hall stated they have removed tribal identification.

Director Dozier stated she may have to get an interpretation from one the state liaisons because she is not clear on that portion.

Board Member Pullar stated they revised the absentee ballot envelope.

Director Dozier explained it now states the address for voting purposes only. She is not clear on the agenda for that change.

16. Secretary Ash stated she will not be able to attend the 2017 GEOA Conference.

Director Dozier stated she had to ask about the conference for two reasons. One is because there is a board meeting scheduled for that Tuesday and would the board like to reschedule the meeting, or will there be quorum to conduct the meeting. The second part is regarding travel. The office is supposed to submit requests forty-five days in advance and we are well under the forty-five days to discuss hotel accommodations.

Board Member Pullar stated she does not know what happened this year, but customarily the hotel was taken care of by the office and money needed to be moved around in order for this expenditure to happen for some of the board members. Ms. Pullar asked where we missed that window because we knew GEOA was coming up and if there was no credit card available, why did we not just ask for a check for the hotel accommodations. Ms. Pullar stated she is living on a fixed income and cannot wait thirty days. Ms. Pullar stated she would like to attend the VRAG Conference, but she would still like to have her hotel room paid for as it has been customary in the years before. Ms. Pullar stated we either need to plan better or make some other arrangements in terms of moving money around so that your board members can attend the conference.

Director Dozier stated it is not a question about moving funds, we can always move funds, it is as she stated in the email, each person has to make the reservation on your personal credit card, provide the office confirmation, and the county will pay for it. All accommodations will be paid for. The departments do not have county credit cards.

Board Member Pullar stated they have never had to put the confirmation on their personal card. The former Director and Interim Director were able to have accommodations paid for before going the conference.

Director Dozier stated the hotel would reserve for one day and once the confirmation was received, the county would relieve it from your personal credit card. Ms. Dozier stated she wanted to sit down with former Elections Director Annie Bright to do some type of transition, but for whatever reason Director Dozier was not able to. Mrs. Bright wanted to conduct a transition with Ms. Dozier regarding processing procedures for the department, but for whatever reason, they were unable to do that. Director Dozier stated she did not have a Supervisor of Elections until Mr. Carter came on board. Ms. Dozier explained no one was there to transition her.

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Director Dozier had to rely on the county policy. Ms. Dozier stated she received her advice and information from Finance and this is what they told her to do because she did inquire with them about how to go about doing this. Director Dozier asked if there is a way to do this without using our personal credit cards. Finance stated the county policy is using your personal credit card and then giving them the confirmation.

Chairman Hall stated when she attended the conference Mrs. Bright put the accommodations on her card and Chairman Hall did not have to use a card.

Board Member Pullar stated she would like to attend the August VRAG Conference.

17. Motion by Board Member Pullar, second by Secretary Ash, to remove the list of felons from the electors' list. Vote unanimous.

18. Motion by Board Member Pullar, second by Secretary Ash, to remove the list of deceased voters from the electors' list. Vote unanimous.

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There being no further business, motion by Board Member Pullar, second by Secretary Ash to adjourn the Regular Business Meeting at approximately 5:00 p.m. Vote unanimous.

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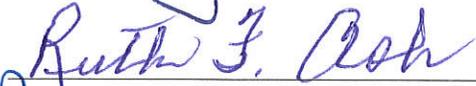
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DOROTHY FOSTER HALL, CHAIRMAN



HARRY A. OSBORNE, VICE-CHAIRMAN



RUTH F. ASH, SECRETARY



PATRICIA PULLAR, BOARD MEMBER

NOT PRESENT

CAROL WESLEY, BOARD MEMBER

ATTEST:



ALLISON R. RUOTOLO, CLERK