

CLAYTON BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

Regular Business Meeting

November 15, 2016

Immediately Following Special Called Meeting

AMENDED SUMMARY MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Dorothy Hall, Vice-Chairman Patricia Pullar, Secretary Ruth Ash, Board Member Harry Osborne, Board Member George Sligh, Director Shauna Dozier and Clerk Allison Ruotolo. GUESTS: Detrick Stanford, Chief Operating Officer, Shalanda Miller, Staff Attorney.

1. Chairman Hall called the meeting to order.
2. Moment of silence observed.
3. Motion by Board Member Sligh, second by Vice-Chairman Patricia Pullar, to adopt the agenda for the November 15, 2016 Regular Business Meeting of the Board of Elections and Registration. Vote unanimous.
4. Motion by Board Member Sligh, second by Secretary Ash, to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2016 Regular Business Meeting and the November 8, 2016 Special Called Meeting of the Board of Elections and Registration. Vote unanimous.
5. New Business:
  - A. Director's Report.
  - B. Date and Time Change for Board Meetings.
6. Director Dozier commended the staff for their hard work and dedication during the election.
7. Chairman Hall commended the staff and Director Dozier for their hard work in the election.
8. Director Dozier stated the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month are available for use of the Commissioner's Board Room. As long as the dates are not on the days of Commissioner's meetings.
9. Motion by Board Member Sligh, second by Secretary Ash, to approve the change of the Regular Monthly Business meetings of the Board of Elections and Registration to either the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 4:30 p.m. or the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 4:30 p.m. Vote unanimous.
10. Board Member Osborne recommended notice of the change in time and date of the Regular Monthly Business Meetings be posted.

Ms. Dozier stated it would also go on the front page of the office website.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Archie Emerson, former Coordinator, stated based on the Board hiring Ms. Dozier, and Ms. Emerson understands everyone says she does a good job, Ms. Emerson, as a Coordinator, knew there were other things going on during the election. Ms. Emerson explained she understands the Board brought Director Dozier on and that Director Dozier is educated, but there are some things that need to be corrected in order to keep Clayton County out of the news. Ms. Emerson stated she has done her due diligence and knows there are other investigations in

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Clayton County going on and there is probably other things to come about, but there is either going to be on the job training for Ms. Dozier or we are going to be in the news.

Ms. Emerson stated she is not against Ms. Dozier, she is for the County and hopes this Board is for the County as well and keeping the County out of the news. Ms. Emerson expressed that she has come before the Board twice as a tax payer and questions if Ms. Dozier knows she's in an elevated position as a Supervisor, as a Director.

Ms. Emerson stated the training was insufficient for 58 precincts led by a lady who needed training herself. The poll worker line to call in was busy and Ms. Emerson's precincts called her on her cell phone.

Board Member Osborne recited a portion of the minutes from a previous meeting where legal counsel was present. Mr. Osborne stated Mr. McClendon, Staff Attorney, explained to a public commenter that the public comment section of the meeting is not the opportunity to hold discussion with county employees or the Board members. Mr. Osborne further stated that needs to be reiterated in the present circumstances.

2. Joan Burton, FPI, stated she could have talked about everything that went wrong with the election. Ms. Burton mentioned she hopes the future will be better. The election is over and everyone got through it. We did not have enough materials and the line was busy, but they got through it because of teamwork. Training is great, but we need teamwork and for people to worry about themselves.

3. Lela Gill, RD9 Manager, stated she had a great team, but the workers need hands on training and the provision line was a joke. Previously, there were Coordinators in between to assist.

12. Vice-Chairman Pullar suggested Ms. Dozier contact the Commissioners to see who their appointments would be next year because they will have to be sworn in before the January meeting.

Ms. Pullar stated she had heard a lot of issues and complaints from Managers and voters. A couple of times Ms. Pullar did speak to Ms. Dozier on the phone with the voters on the phone about their experience. A couple of the things were there were wrong addresses from the voters in the system and in one case Clayton State University had a voter registration drive which Ms. Dozier conducted and some of these voters their information had not been changed in terms of their address and so it posed an issue for them when they went to go vote. Then there was also a case of someone presenting a permanent resident ID card to vote and that does not constitute a United States citizen. You are supposed to be a United States citizen in order to vote and a permanent resident is not a United States citizen. I could go on and on, but I choose not to. I have a list a whole list of issues that happened during Early Voting and Election Day. One of the most important things is that we as a Board have to address where we are having these Advance Voting locations during a presidential election. I do not think that those locations are adequate in terms of the space that they give us at the recreation centers. We had one of the smallest rooms. You cannot accommodate voters during a Presidential Election in a small room. Then you have people wrapped around a wall with no seating and then you have a small amount of people the staffing was not something where it should have been ratcheted up in terms of a Presidential

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Election. It was the same amount of people that really work with the Advance Voting and Election Day during a Primary and a Presidential Election should not there is a way you have to plan and make certain that you have adequate staffing during a presidential election and an adequate location so people do not feel like they have to be online for an hour or two hours when it is unnecessary. You could have had ten machines twenty machines in one room if we had an adequate room. So that is something that we have to look at going forward in the next big election which may be the gubernatorial election in 2018. I do not know, but certainly if you have twenty-one days during Advance Voting Early Voting and then you get to your Advance Voting week and you see the things if you are observant and you are observing what is happening and listening and communicating with your staff as to what is happening on a daily basis during those twenty-one days you have to make some sort of adjustments in terms of staffing and in terms of space so it could have been an easy fix before Advance Voting week started and saying this room is too small. We need to get more machines in here. We need to get more staff in here and that is what should be happening in terms of our election so we are putting the best customer service forward and she did not see that. Ms. Pullar knows Ms. Dozier is new and this is her first Presidential Election. It is probably a rude awakening for her because she was not prepared and there were no adjustments made during that period of time. Ms. Pullar stated that is what she has to say about this.

Board Member Sligh stated he had not received the complaints.

Vice-Chairman Pullar stated she is contacted as a member of the Democratic Party by voters and elected officials.

Chairman Hall asked Vice-Chairman Pullar if she was being contacted in another capacity.

Vice-Chairman Pullar responded yes because she is the Democratic Party Chair.

Chairman Hall stated if Ms. Pullar is not bringing this information as a Board Member she is wearing double hats.

Vice-Chairman Pullar asked how the information should be received.

Board Member Osborne asked Shalanda Miller, Staff Attorney, if the Board was engaging in personnel matters that need to be handled in Executive Session.

Ms. Miller stated not that she is aware of. It sounds like regular dialogue about the election.

Mr. Osborne stated Ms. Pullar was discussing Ms. Dozier's performance and shortcomings. It seems like a personnel matter.

Ms. Miller stated if the Board wanted to discuss Ms. Dozier in Executive Session, they can, but general complaints about the election and how it was conducted is general comment.

Chairman Hall stated Ms. Pullar is addressing the information as a Board member, but Ms. Pullar is receiving the information as Democratic Party Chairman.

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Vice-Chairman Pullar stated she received the information and she is not sure if anyone knows the members of the Board they could contact.

Ms. Miller suggested sharing any information or complaints with Ms. Dozier for research and Ms. Dozier can get an adequate response.

Ms. Dozier addressed the complaints in question by stating she was not aware of a voter with a permanent address card. In regard to the Advance Voting locations, Ms. Dozier stated these locations were established before her tenure. The Clayton State voter was a Fulton County voter not a Clayton County voter. Ms. Dozier explained that she spoke with the voter directly, and contacted the Fulton County Registration Chief to resolve the issue. In addition Ms. Dozier walked the Manager through how to process the voter so that she can vote. Director Dozier explained that Ms. Pullar called her on a three way call with two voters who stated they voted at the Morrow location and the complaint was they were in line for an hour on the first day this location was opened; and they wanted to revert back to the manual process instead of using EasyVote. As for adjustments to the Early Voting locations, because the Elections and Registration Office is a heavy voting location, Director Dozier stated this location went from ten units to sixteen units after the first few days. Ms. Dozier also explained that the Registration & Elections Advance Voting location was staffed with 15 employees. Additionally, Ms. Dozier stated that Registration & Elections Staff were deployed to Advance Voting locations on a daily basis as needed. Further, Ms. Dozier described for voters who could not take the stairs or elevator, a unit was set up downstairs and a runner assisted them. Further, staffing was adjusted to the locations as needed.

Vice-Chairman Pullar stated there was no reason to discuss anymore issues.

Motion by Board Member Sligh, second by Secretary Ash, to adjourn to Executive Session at approximately 4:50 p.m. to discuss personnel and litigation matters. Vote unanimous.

Board entered back into regular session at approximately 5:40 p.m.

Motion by Board Member Osborne, second by Board Member Sligh, to refer any complaints received by the Board to Ms. Dozier and she is to report to the Board the substance of such complaints and her action(s) in regard to them. Vote unanimous.

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There being no further business, motion by Board Member Sligh, second by Secretary Ash to adjourn the Regular Business Meeting at approximately 5:45 p.m. Vote unanimous.

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DOROTHY FOSTER HALL, CHAIRMAN

  
PATRICIA PULLAR, VICE-CHAIRMAN

  
RUTH F. ASH, SECRETARY

  
GEORGE LEIGH, BOARD MEMBER

  
HARRY A. OSBORNE, BOARD MEMBER

ATTEST:

  
ALLISON R. RUOTOLO, CLERK