



Lumpkin County Board of Elections & Registration

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Monthly Meeting

January 17, 2012

Attendance:

Chuck Treadway (Republican Seat 2) - Chairman

Ralph Drew (Republican Seat 1) - Board Member

Sallie Sorohan (Democratic Seat 3) – Board Member

Kimberly Pruitt (Nonpartisan Seat 5) – Secretary, Elections Supervisor & Chief Registrar

Linda Williamson – Elections & Voter Registration Technician

Absent: Bastian Oskam (Democratic Seat 4) – Vice Chair, travelling

I. Call to order. Chairman Treadway called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

II. Approval of Previous Minutes of December 20, 2011.

Mr. Drew motions to accept the minutes as written. Ms. Sorohan seconds the motion. Motion carries.

III. Public Hearing – Challenges by the Board

In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 21-2-228, a hearing was held to determine the eligibility to remain on the electors list of nine individuals. A detailed list with reasons for the challenge, pertinent research and the date the notices were mailed to the named individuals is attached. No challenged voters are in attendance.

- Three were cases of published obituaries. Ms. Sorohan motions to delete the three voters on the basis of their published obituaries. Mr. Drew seconds the motion. Motion carries.
- Six were cases of returned mail with invalid residential addresses, Department of Driver Services records showing an out of county address, or records showing they are currently registered in other states. All resources were researched in order to contact the voters and letters were mailed to all addresses found for each voter. Based upon the available evidence, Mr. Drew motions to delete the six invalid address voters from the voter list. Ms. Sorohan seconds the motion. Motion carries unopposed.

Resolved, that these nine voters are no longer qualified to be registered in Lumpkin County.

IV. News/Issues

A. Budget

- The December report and final report for 2011 is not available at this time.
- Chairman Treadway asks if the office was able to purchase a third licensure for the Easy Absentee application from GA Easy Vote. Ms. Pruitt answers that it was purchased with 2011 funds.
- Mr. Drew asks about the state precinct cards as to why they were not sent out under the 2011 budget.
- Ms. Pruitt reports that she submitted the state helpdesk tickets beginning in the fall following the finalization of the consolidation of the precincts in the statewide voter registration system. However, they have not been received. She has submitted several follow up tickets requesting the state run the cards. The state e-mailed her this morning that they would print the cards today.
- A discussion ensues on the annual budget and the fact that even though funds remain in the 2011 for postage in order to send the cards, that funding is rolled into the general fund and is not credited to the department. Therefore, the 2012 budget line item for postage will be substantially over budget in 2012, roughly \$4,640 (16,000 votes x \$0.29)

B. Consolidation Status

- Ms. Pruitt reports she has now received signed contracts for all polling locations except for The Dahlonega Assembly of God. Mr. Spindler affirms that he will sign the contract and get it to us as soon as possible.

C. Voter Lists

- Ms. Pruitt reviews an event following the vote of the last meeting to charge the same amount for voter lists as the state. Upon reviewing this with the County Clerk, as far as open records request procedures, and with the Finance Office, the County Clerk brought it to our attention that, in accordance with open

records rules, we could only charge the actual amount required in obtaining the information and the materials used to give the information to the requestor. The County Clerk regularly charges \$10 for data on a CD. Therefore, in order to comply with current county practice and open records rules, Ms. Pruitt charged a candidate \$10 for the list as obtained through the GA Easy Vote program.

- Ms. Sorohan asks how much other counties charge for this service.
- Ms. Pruitt reports she has not requested that information.

D. Election Preparations

- Ms. Pruitt reports that L&A has been completed, beginning on 1/9 and completed on 1/11. The Board assisted with the programming and testing of the DRE/TSX units and the initial testing of the ExpressPolls. Ms. Pruitt and Ms. Williamson completed the full testing of the absentee ballots on the Optical Scan Units, the new hubs connecting multiple ExpressPolls, as well as the ID scanners for the ExpressPolls.
- Chairman Treadway requests Ms. Pruitt to review IT issues with the Board. Ms. Pruitt reports the constant breakdown of the internet during Early Voting and the repeated requests for it to be fixed, as well as the resulting information that it cannot be fixed but that eventually the county will update the internet connection. Ms. Pruitt requested reliable internet prior to Early Voting, again. The IT Contractors have agreed to run a hard line to the room for Early Voting.
- Chairman Treadway asks if the Director of the YMCA/Parks & Rec has moved our voting location to the side offices instead of the Dance Room. Ms. Pruitt states that she has not been notified, but was last informed it would occur prior to the July Primary. Chairman Treadway believes it will be a better location as far as climate control and closer to the building entry.
- Chairman Treadway asks if the office issue of needing internet connectivity for training was resolved. Ms. Pruitt responded that the office was instructed to run a hard line in the conference room and hub to the areas we need for training.
- Ms. Pruitt reviews that Ms. Williamson sent out applications to all prior elderly/disabled voters and have received 96 completed applications to date. These ballots plus all UOCAVA will be mailed out on Friday, January 20th.
- Chairman Treadway reports that he feels voters are unaware of the election date. Ms. Pruitt reports that she has submitted six weeks of boxed ads, ranging in size, which will begin the last week of January and run through to the election in the local paper. Mr. Drew states that there will be many voters that do not know the precincts have been consolidated and therefore, when the cards do go out, the office will be inundated with calls. Chairman Treadway states that not only the change of consolidation, but the reduction in the number of days of Early Voting, will be concerns to many of the voters. Ms. Sorohan suggests that we should all go to all of the civic clubs and organizations and request five minutes talking about the changes this year. Ms. Sorohan requests Ms. Pruitt to create a talking point sheet listing some of the question we might be confronted with. Ms. Sorohan states that she could speak to the Historical Society and the Women's Club; they in turn can pass the word of mouth. Only about 30% of the population receives the paper, so word of mouth would work best.
Chairman Treadway encourages all of the Board Members to mention the changes to the different organizations to which they belong. Ms. Pruitt mentions that all of the voters will have the new election dates and their new precincts on the precinct cards, so all voters will have the dates delivered to their home for all of the 2012 elections.
- Chairman Treadway asks which Board Members will attend with the Delivery/Retrieval Contractors. He will not be available. He asks Ms. Pruitt if she has designed the new route. Ms. Pruitt states that she has, beginning with Dahlonega. She will be taking pictures and measurements of each poll and will work with the poll managers to design the layout. This will be going into a manual which will be given to the Delivery/Retrieval Contractors. Mr. Drew volunteers to assist with the delivery on March 5th. Chairman Treadway reminds the members that the contractors have been hired to do the work. We will go with them the first few times to ensure they are aware of what needs to be done and the security. Once they are satisfied with the process and the Board is satisfied, the Board will no longer accompany the contractors at that time. Mr. Drew asks if the Board will be needed for retrieval as well. Chairman Treadway answers affirmatively that we should be there to answer questions and explain the processes.
- Ms. Sorohan asks if we need more poll workers at this time. Ms. Pruitt gives the required paperwork and training dates to Ms. Sorohan for distribution and explains the pay rate. Mr. Drew requests the training dates and asks if the Board needs to attend training as well. Chairman Treadway states that it isn't mandatory, but would be useful.

- Mr. Drew asks about the Quality Control rounds on Election Day. The Board discusses the Southern Route (West, South West, South East) which will be performed by Mr. Drew and Mr. Oskam. The Northern Route (Dahlonaga, East, North East & East) will be performed by Ms. Sorohan and Chairman Treadway. Chairman Treadway explains the process to Ms. Sorohan. The discussion expands to include election night after the close of the polls process.
- A discussion ensues about the poll workers. Ms. Pruitt reports the poor health of several of the reliable poll workers and the preliminary poll manager assignments. Ms. Pruitt will begin calling and mailing out to those who have not responded to the e-mails.

V. Upcoming Events

1/20-3/2 Presidential Preference Primary & SPLOST Absentee by Mail

2/9 Early Poll Worker Training

2/13-3/2 Early Voting

2/23 Experienced Poll Worker Training

2/25 New Poll Worker Training

3/6 Presidential Preference Primary & SPLOST

3/7 Retrieval of Equipment/Begin Election Returns Consolidation

3/9 Certify Results 2:00 pm

VI. Next Meeting & Adjournment

- Next meeting is set for February 21, 2012 at 9:00 am.
- Mr. Drew moves to adjourn.
- Ms. Sorohan seconds the motion.
- Motion carries unanimously.
- Chairman Treadway adjourns the meeting at 9:33 am.