



Lumpkin County Board of Elections & Registration

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Monthly Meeting

March 20, 2012

Attendance:

Chuck Treadway (Republican Seat 2) – Chairman

Bastian Oskam (Democratic Seat 4) – Vice Chair

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

I. Call to order. Chairman Treadway called the meeting to order at 9:06 am.

II. Approval of Previous Minutes of February 21, 2012.

Mr. Drew motions to accept the minutes as written. Mr. Oskam 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 eight 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.

- All eight challenges were cases of published obituaries. Mr. Drew motions to delete the eight voters on the basis of the published obituaries. Ms. Sorohan seconds the motion. Motion carries.

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

IV. News/Issues

A. Budget

- **Current:** The February report has not been published by the Finance Office to date. Ms. Pruitt reports there were some unscheduled expenses in reference to the new signage and the lamination for the state signage; however, there should be enough in the supplies budget to cover the expense.

- **2013 Budget Planning:**

The Board reviews the proposed budget and the justification worksheet as presented by Ms. Pruitt.

- Chairman Treadway inquires on the election expense included in the proposed budget.
- Ms. Pruitt noted that she included the expense of one special election in the budget in the event the school board or some other entity requires a referendum in 2013.

Ms. Pruitt brings the issue before the Board due to complaints received by the poll workers, especially during Advance Voting, to see if the Board feels it warranted to pursue increasing the pay rate.

- Ms. Pruitt presented the research and average pay rates for poll workers in the surrounding counties and other counties with roughly the same number of voters.
- Mr. Oskam suggests a 10% increase, however, it should be based on a good tax base, which currently Lumpkin County does not have.
- Ms. Sorohan suggests an increase up to the average rate based upon the data.
- Ms. Pruitt points out that it would be equal to the 10% increase.
- Chairman Treadway expresses concerns that we have been promoting changes for cost savings to the public and an increase in pay would bring us back to where we were and would not go over well. He feels our poll workers are compensated quite well. If there is an increase, he suggests it should only be with the Advance Voting poll workers.
- Mr. Drew inquires as to why the rate, \$64 per diem, is so low for Advance Voting poll workers.
- Ms. Pruitt responds, as she understands it, the rate was based upon an 8 hour day at \$8 per hour. However, they generally work 9 ½ hours, equaling less than minimum wage.
- Ms. Sorohan asks if the pay rate is why we have trouble staffing enough poll workers.

- Ms. Pruitt responds that for this election, we had the issue of three experienced poll worker teams quitting due to their disagreement with consolidation. We did have plenty of poll workers for this election and there are more voters who have notified us they are interested that we may pursue.
- Chairman Treadway & Mr. Drew state that the poll workers were very good, experienced and with no issues.
- Mr. Oskam asks if we are receiving a lot of complaints on the pay issue.
- Ms. Pruitt responds that it is almost daily during Advance Voting and during training. It is ongoing, but they are not presenting it as an ultimatum where they will not work unless paid more. They bring up that other counties are paid much better. However, according to the research, they are not paid that differently (Poll Managers: \$150 vs. average of \$164, Ast. Managers: \$125 vs. average of \$138, Clerks: \$100 vs. \$114, Training: \$20 vs. \$12, Advance: \$64 vs. \$55).
- Chairman Treadway proposes tabling the issue for another year.
- Supervisor Pruitt states that she brought the issue before the Board to ensure the poll workers concerns have been heard. However, Ms. Pruitt agrees with the Chairman that our concentration has been on efficiency and lowering costs, if we begin increasing costs, then it will negate any positive outcomes. No county worker has received a raise in the past five years either.
- Mr. Oskam suggests tabling the issue until next year.

Mr. Drew states that the law allows Board Members to receive more pay. He feels \$48 per diem is sufficient for meetings, but not sufficient for Election Day. He asks if other counties distinguish between Election Day vs. pay for meetings.

- Ms. Pruitt responds that some counties do and some counties do not. The information listed is from those counties which responded and offered the information on rate.
- Mr. Oskam states that since Board Members go out twice during the day on Election Day and should be paid the same rate as Poll Managers, \$150 per diem. It is more responsibility and a longer day than the poll workers.
- Mr. Drew states that the fuel of coming to the courthouse on Election Day is an expense. He suggests an increase in the Board pay for Election Day.
- Mr. Oskam suggests tabling the issue until next year or the economy picks up.
- Ms. Sorohan states that she was surprised to be paid for meeting attendance and feels ambivalent on the issue.

B. Election Review – Post Planning

The spreadsheet of reported issues and concerns for the 3/6/12 Presidential Preference Primary is reviewed. Chairman Treadway opens the discussion on the issues resulting from L&A.

- Mr. Oskam suggests performing L&A as we suggested previously, that Chairman Treadway and Ms. Pruitt perform the testing of the units and the remainder of the Board observe and assist.
- Mr. Drew expresses his concern about extending the time required to perform L&A.
- Ms. Pruitt responds that L&A does not have to occur all on the same day. You must publish the start date, staff may work on it daily, a few hours at a time, or however it is possible, as long as it is complete prior to three days before the election.
- Mr. Drew states that if the equipment was located in office, he would agree to the multi-day process. However, since the equipment is in another building, it all ought to be done at once.
- Mr. Oskam again suggests that until the move occurs, that Chairman Treadway and Ms. Pruitt perform the testing, and the rest of the Board observe and assist.
- Chairman Treadway states we are not trying to point anyone out. There are too many distractions.
- Mr. Drew states it is difficult to keep up with all of the steps on all of the units, but the more you do it, the better you are able to do it.
- Mr. Oskam states that when Chairman Treadway is performing L&A, he needs quiet and concentration. It is more burdensome for him to have to stop and answer questions or have to go and help the other members.
- Mr. Drew states that his only problem is when something happens and he needs to back out, when he hits the wrong button, of course the instructions can't include every possibility.

- Mr. Oskam again suggests that Chairman Treadway and Ms. Pruitt perform the testing of the units; he and the other members can assist with the ExpressPolls, paperwork and seals.
- Mr. Drew suggests we leave the machines unlocked and Ms. Pruitt could recheck all of them.
- Chairman Treadway states that it would result in repeat work. It is best they are done correctly the first time. If the other members will assist with the supplies, sealing them and allow Ms. Pruitt and himself to do the rest of the testing.
- Ms. Sorohan volunteers to work in the office, allowing for Ms. Williamson to assist with the testing and learning the process better.
- Chairman Treadway repeats that it is his last year on the Board. Therefore, Ms. Williamson will need to be able to assist Ms. Pruitt with L&A.
- It is agreed that Chairman Treadway, Ms. Pruitt and Ms. Williamson will perform the testing, Ms. Sorohan will work in the office, and the other members will assist with supplies, paperwork and seals.

Chairman Treadway states his concern with the ExpressPolls: all precincts had syncing or scanner issues.

- Ms. Pruitt states that all units tested well during L&A and during the Bulk Upload process, yet when they are used all day on Election Day, they do not perform well.
- Mr. Drew suggests it was the addition of the hubs and new patch cables.
- Ms. Pruitt states that in testing, the addition of the hub actually resolved all issues with syncing the units and was instantaneous.
- Chairman Treadway states that there was no logical reason that switching from the hub to the old orange cables resolved the issue. He changed out the hub, the cables, and all pieces, to no avail; but then directly linking them with the orange cables worked. His concern is that for the remainder of the elections, we will be using 3-4 ExpressPolls per precinct and we will have to use the hubs. The issue must be resolved prior to the next election.
- Chairman Treadway then discusses the issue with one unit at zero percent charge at opening at the North East Precinct. The units had been plugged in overnight and all batteries have been replaced, so, it was a new battery. However, during the day it charged and had no further issues.
- Chairman Treadway and Ms. Sorohan discuss the North Precinct with the issue of the license scanners not working. The issue was resolved once the poll workers placed the scanners in the stands correctly. They initially had them in the stand backwards where the trigger was constantly deployed. Once the scanners were placed in the stands correctly, they worked well.
- Chairman Treadway states that most issues are mainly because it has been over a year since the last time they worked with the equipment and it should be expected on the first election of the year.
- Mr. Oskam mentions that West and South West Precincts also had issues with the ExpressPolls freezing. The poll workers would shut them down and reboot them or remove the screen and reseal them, they then worked fine. It appears the prong connection seems to be the main issue.
- Ms. Pruitt reports that we are now required to report any equipment issues to KSU via an online ticket throughout Election Day. Ms. Pruitt states that she will send an e-mail to see if other counties are experiencing the same issues with the ExpressPolls and for suggested solutions.

Mr. Oskam discusses the parking issues and resolutions for the East Precinct, suggesting we either block off or have poll workers park in the front lot to ensure voters parking there does not interfere with the flow into the main parking area.

Mr. Drew mentions his concern about exiting the parking lot from the West Precinct.

- Ms. Pruitt responds that she had the Road Department place yellow flashers before and after the drive which operate during darkness, and poll workers placed yellow caution signs there as well. No other solution is known. We contacted the DOT and the Sheriff's Office for assistance or additional signage, the only solution offered is what we are doing.

V. Upcoming Events

- 5/6-5/9 GEOA Savannah-Office coverage is needed for 5/7, 8 & 9. Chairman Treadway will be out of town that week. The other members will notify Ms. Pruitt of the dates they are available.
- 5/23-5/25 Qualifying – Nonpartisan will be in office. The parties generally host their own.
- 6/15-7/27 Absentee By Mail for the General Primary
- 7/2 Registration Deadline for the General Primary
- 7/9-7/27 Advance Voting for the General Primary

- 7/30 Deliver Equipment– No Board accompaniment needed. A.V. Building Services performed very well and the Board feels comfortable in the contractors handling the process on their own from this point forward.
- 7/31 General Primary
- 8/1 Retrieve Equipment and begin Consolidation of Returns
- 8/3 Certify Results at 2:00 pm if there are no Provisional Voters with outstanding ID, otherwise, 5:00 pm.

VI. Next Meeting & Adjournment

- Next meeting is set for April 17, 2012 at 9:00 am.
- Mr. Drew moves to adjourn.
- Ms. Sorohan seconds the motion.
- Motion carries unanimously.
- Chairman Treadway adjourns the meeting at 9:51 am.