BEAUFORT COUNTY COUNCIL
Board of Elections & Registration

15 John Galt Road
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Beaufort, SC 29901-1228

MARILYN CAPRIELIAN
CHAIRMAN

RON CLIFFORD
VICE CHAIRMAN

BOARD MEMBERS

EMILE A. BERNARD
DEAN HEWITT
CURTIS A. PAULING, JR.
JAMES W. ROWE
ELLEN BRAY
HUGH P. O'KANE
RUPERT WILLIAMS

SCOTT M. MARSHALL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Beaufort County Board of Elections and Registration was held on February 24, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. in the Finance Department's conference room at 102 Industrial Village Road, Building #2, Beaufort, South Carolina.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present:	Board Members Absent:	Staff Present:
Marilyn Caprielian, Chairman	Emile Bernard	Scott Marshall, Executive Director
Ron Clifford, Vice Chairman	Curtis A. Pauling, Jr.	Kristina Weitz, Board Secretary
Ellen Bray	James Rowe	Marie Smalls, Deputy Director
Dean Hewitt		
Hugh O'Kane		
Rupert Williams		

Public:

Rachel Buie, Beaufort County Republican Party Chairman
Morris Campbell, Executive Director of Community Services, Beaufort County Council
Martin Caprielian, citizen

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Marilyn Caprielian, Chairman of the Board.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dean Hewitt led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance to begin the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING HELD OCTOBER 28, 2009

There were no additions and/or corrections made to the minutes of the regular board meeting held on October 28, 2009.

It was motioned by Mr. Clifford and seconded by Mr. Williams to approve the regular board meeting minutes of October 28, 2009. The vote was: FOR – Mrs. Caprielian, Mr. Clifford, Mrs. Bray, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hewitt, and Mr. O'Kane. No ABSTENTIONS. ABSENT – Mr. Bernard, Mr. Pauling, Jr., and Mr. Rowe. The motion passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Board Meeting Schedule Update

Mr. Williams opened the discussion stating he was in favor of bi-monthly regular board meetings, and then hold unscheduled board meetings as needed. Mr. Clifford and Mr. O'Kane disagreed, feeling the regular board meetings should be held monthly then cancel as needed. Mrs. Bray inquired how much notice would be given when cancelling a board meeting. Mr. Hewitt suggested having the even-year regular board meetings each month then cancel as necessary; while the odd-years would be bi-monthly. Mr. Clifford motioned to keep the current scheduling of the regular board meetings and Mrs. Bray seconded. The vote was: FOR – Mrs. Caprielian, Mr. Clifford, Mrs. Bray, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hewitt, and Mr. O'Kane. No ABSTENTIONS. ABSENT – Mr. Bernard, Mr. Pauling, Jr., and Mr. Rowe. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Reports

Finance Committee
Mr. Clifford provided a brief report of the Finance Committee's meeting held on February 17, 2010. The purpose was to show the current budget amount to-date compared to the reduced proposed five-year budget.

South of the Broad River Facility Committee
Mr. O'Kane provided a written summary of the South of the Broad River Facility Committee meeting held on February 19, 2010. Mr. O'Kane motioned that the Board's position on the matter is to establish a full service county funded registration and absentee voting location in southern Beaufort County. Mr. Williams seconded. The vote was: FOR – Mrs. Caprielian, Mr. Clifford, Mrs. Bray, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hewitt, and Mr. O'Kane. No ABSTENTIONS. ABSENT – Mr. Bernard, Mr. Pauling, Jr., and Mr. Rowe. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Marshall presented the Executive Director's Report; copies of the slides were distributed to meeting attendees.

June Primaries

Mr. Marshall reported the number of offices up for election on the June 8, 2010 Primaries, along with a list of important dates proceeding up to the day of election. Mr. Marshall said the Voter Registration office would be tentatively open on the last day to register to vote, Saturday, May 8, 2010. Exact hours of operation are still to be determined.

New Poll Manager Training Schedule

Mrs. Smalls presented the schedule for the Poll Manager Training for new poll workers and students, as well as a briefing schedule for the June 8th Primaries. (A copy of the new poll manager training schedule proceeds these board minutes.)

Reorganization of Precinct Supply Boxes

Mr. Marshall notified the board the precinct supply boxes were being refurbished. The goal for the refurbishing is to keep the materials easily updated and better organized. There will be a new inventory checklist for the board members to comment. The checklist would be a generalized checklist to use for all the precinct supply boxes and will be provided to the board for comment.

Current Budget Status

Mr. Marshall briefly reviewed the current budget status and reported the iVotronic motherboard battery replacements would not happen before June 2010; however there are no anticipated problems with the current motherboard batteries for the June primaries.

South Carolina Voter Registration System

The South Carolina Voter Registration system is over 20 years old and the State Election Commission has contracted NWN Corporation to update the system. The anticipated date of implication is July 2011. Beaufort County is participating in reviewing requirements for the system.

Legislation Updates

There are two major legislation updates. UOCAVA (Uniformed and Overseas Citizens and Absentee Voting Act) applications are no longer good for 4 years, and are only good for 1 calendar year. South Carolina House Bill 3418, a bill to establish early voting and to require voter photo identification, has been approved by the Senate, with amendments. It was scheduled for debate of revised version in the House on February 23, 2010.

Current status of the November 4, 2008 Bluffton Town Election case

The South Carolina Supreme Court issued their opinion on December 7, 2009. The basic question considered was if the South Carolina State Election Commission (SEC) had jurisdiction to hear an appeal from a decision of the county board. The South Carolina Supreme Court concluded the SEC decision void for lack of subject matter jurisdiction and remanded the case to the South Carolina Circuit Court. The SC Circuit Court has not set a date for the appeal yet.

Mr. Williams inquired if a replacement for Mr. Curtis Pauling had been selected by the Legislative Delegation. Mr. Marshall replied in the negative. Mrs. Bray asked if the Board ever sent the retired board members a thank you letter in appreciation of all their hard work. Mrs. Caprielian explained it was not common practice, but it could be started. Mr. Marshall also suggested a thank you letter from the Legislative Delegation's Chairman to be given to Mr. Pauling.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The next scheduled board meeting is March 24, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. in the Finance Department conference room, 102 Industrial Village Rd, Building #2, Beaufort, SC.

ADJOURNMENT

There were no further comments or points of discussion. Hearing none, Mrs. Caprielian asked that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Clifford motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Williams seconded. The vote was: FOR – Mrs. Caprielian, Mr. Clifford, Mrs. Bray, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hewitt, and Mr. O'Kane. No ABSTENTIONS. ABSENT – Mr. Bernard, Mr. Pauling, Jr., and Mr. Rowe. The motion passed unanimously.

The Meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.