



# Beaufort County Council

Board of Elections & Registration  
15 John Galt Road  
P.O. Drawer 1228  
Beaufort, SC 29901-1228

## Board of Elections and Registration Board Minutes

September 20, 2010

3:00 p.m.

15 John Galt Rd

Beaufort, SC

Meeting was called to order by Mr. Ron Clifford, Chairman, at 3:00 p.m. Mr. Clifford introduced those in attendance. He also introduced the newest board member, Ms. Norma Stewart. Ms. Stewart was appointed by the Governor on July 16, 2010.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Scott Marshall, Executive Director.

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ron Clifford, Chairman

Emile Bernard

Ellen Bray

James Rowe

Dean Hewitt

Norma Stewart

Rupert Williams

Beverly Dore

### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Scott Marshall, Executive Director

Marie Smalls, Deputy Director

Eric Montgomery, Programmer

### **PUBLIC PRESENT:**

Morris Campbell, Executive Director, Community Services Division

Sue Feutz, League of Women Voters

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### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There were no public comments.

The minutes of the July 21, 2010 board meeting were presented. Ms. Norma Stewart was added to the attendance roster. Other minor corrections were made. It was then motioned by Mr. Dean Hewitt, and seconded by Mr. Rupert Williams, that the minutes be accepted with corrections. The minutes, with corrections, were voted upon and approved unanimously.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- *Board Member Stipend* - Mr. Clifford reported that he spoke with Mr. Newton, County Council Chairman, about the Board's stipend being eliminated in the 2011 state budget as a result of the Governor's line-item veto. However, Mr. Newton's preliminary response was not perceived as favorable. He felt that other County boards and Commissions would have to be considered for stipends if the Board of Elections and Registration received a stipend from county funds. In addition to the conversation, a letter was sent to Mr. Weston Newton, with a copy to Mr. Gary Kubic, County Administrator, outlining the board's request. In its discussion the board also agreed that a letter should also be sent to Senator Tom Davis stressing the importance of restoring the stipend in the next state budget cycle.

Mr. Williams expressed his concerns about the perceived lack of interest regarding the stipend issue on the part of County Council. Ms. Bray expressed her concerns about the numbers of hours spent a month working on the board while receiving no compensation. Mr. Rowe reminded the other board members that the Board of Elections and Registration is not simply an advisory board, as are most appointed boards, and requested a special meeting with Mr. Newton. Mr. Hewitt also expressed his concern that Mr. Newton may not recognize this board as a "legislative created" board. Ms. Dore added that the County Administrator, Gary Kubic, should be included in the proposed meeting with Chairman Newton because she thought he would have a better understanding of the various boards' requirements. It was also suggested that a chart should be prepared to compare and contrast the differences.

Mr. Campbell, as a representative of Mr. Kubic, said that he would speak with Mr. Kubic before the board moving forward with the letter. He said that he would provide feedback to the board regarding that planned conversation.

Mr. Montgomery informed the board that the Clerk of Council, Sue Rainey, already had a document that explained the duties of the different boards called the ABC's (Agencies, Boards and Commissions).

Mr. Rowe also reminded everybody that this board is unique in that certification is required by the State to serve. Mr. Marshall offered to collaborate with Mr. Clifford and compile the necessary information outlining the responsibilities and duties that are unique to this board.

*Mr. Clifford paused to recognize Ms. Sue Feutz, representing the league of Women Voters, who was now present in the audience. She had no comments.*

- *Committee Assignments* - The committee assignments were reviewed and appropriate adjustments were made. The committees of the board are: Rules, Legislative Affairs, Finance, Facilities, and Precinct Reapportionment.
- *Bluffton Extension Office* - Mr. Bernard, Chairman of the Facilities Committee, reported on the status of the new office to be located at the Bluffton Recreation Center. The renovations of the office and the parking area were reportedly progressing well.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- *Use of Third Party Website* - The board and Mr. Marshall discussed the controversies and the misunderstandings that were generated by the news release that was published on September 7, 2010 warning voters to avoid the use of third-party websites such as scabsentee.com to request absentee ballot applications. scabsentee.com was created by the SC State Republican party to automatically generate email requests for absentee ballot applications to counties on behalf of voters. The process is convenient for the voter; however, Mr. Marshall expressed concern that voters who use the site receive no verification regarding their request. Mr. Marshall asked that the board help him get the word out that

the office is not refusing requests received as a result of scabsentee.com; the rumor to this effect was baseless. He assured board members these requests are being processed like every other absentee application request.

- *Resource allocations (Poll Managers, voting machines, etc.)* – Each board member was issued a proposed allocation list of poll workers and voting machines needed for the November 2, 2010 General Election. Board members were asked to let Mr. Marshall know of any adjustments they feel are needed based on turnout history and experience in their respective areas.

Ms. Norma Stewart requested similar allocation lists from the June 2010 Primaries.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Marshall informed the board he was scheduled to make a presentation to County Council's Community Services Committee at their meeting which began at 4:00 p.m.; thus his report may be brief.

Electronic Voter Registration List (EVRL) – MIS Department is managing the purchase of forty-four (44) laptop computers for EVRL use. The South Carolina Election Commission (SEC) is matching counties' purchases of laptop computers, if counties commit funds during FY 2011. As a result of Beaufort County's planned purchase, SEC is providing the county 24 additional laptop computers for dedicated EVRL use only.

Poll Manager Training – The training schedule for the General Election briefings was provided. Online training is also available to poll managers who cannot attend one of the six scheduled sessions.

Mr. Marshall discussed the offices on the General Election ballot. He noted that there is one office without a candidate, School Board District 2 (Hilton Head). The write-in candidate with the most votes will win that seat.

Mr. Marshall gave the board a preview of the new County website and solicited input.

The board bought a full-page advertisement (in a supplement) that was published in the *Bluffton Today* Newspaper on August 25, 2010 in conjunction with the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

### **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

The next board meeting was scheduled for Friday, November 18, 2010 at 11:00 am. In the event there is a canvass hearing on November 18, 2010 to certify results of a runoff election scheduled, the board meeting will immediately follow the canvass hearing

Mr. Rowe again expressed concern about how the board will address the stipend issue.

Ms. Norma Stewart wanted to know if the Board Members should put their contact information on the website and suggested that either all the board members publish their contact information, or none should. After some discussion the board consensus was to publish contact information for the Chairman and the Executive Director, but not the remaining board members.

The meeting adjourned at 5:31 pm.