



BEAUFORT COUNTY COUNCIL

Board of Elections & Registration

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Ron Clifford
Chairman

Scott M. Marshall
Executive Director

Board Members:

Emile Bernard

Ellen Bray

Beverly Dore

Dean Hewitt

Hugh O'Kane

James Rowe

Norma Stewart

Rupert Williams

Minutes from the December 8, 2010 meeting of the Beaufort County Board of Elections and Registration 102 Industrial Village Rd. Bldg #2, Beaufort, SC

Meeting was called to order by Mr. Ron Clifford at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Clifford introduced those in attendance.

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ron Clifford, Chairman

Emile Bernard

Ellen Bray

Jim Rowe

Dean Hewitt*

Norma Stewart

Rupert Williams

Beverly Dore

Hugh O'Kane

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Scott Marshall, Executive Director

Marie Smalls, Dep. Director

Eric Montgomery, Programmer

Kristina Weitz, Board Secretary

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Kyle Peterson, *Island Packet/Beaufort Gazette*

**Delayed Arrived*

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Clifford introduced Mr. Peterson from the *Island Packet/Beaufort Gazette*. Mr. Peterson was asked if he had any comments. Mr. Peterson replied he did not.

*It's a privilege to live where voting is a right.
Honor your privilege by exercising your right.
Vote.*

REVIEW OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2010 BOARD MEETING:

The minutes of the September 20, 2010 board meeting were presented. The following correction was noted:

- On page 3, last paragraph, under “Additional Comments”:

Mrs. 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.

Mrs. Dore asked that the amendment to the minutes be read into the board’s record. It was then motioned by Mrs. Dore, and seconded by Dr. Bernard, that the minutes be accepted with the correction. The September 20th minutes were voted upon, as corrected, and approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT/NEW BUSINESS

- *Preview of Pending Elections* –
 - Hilton Head Island Ward 3 Special Election

The filing period is from noon December 10, 2010 to noon December 20, 2010. The election will be held on February 15, 2011 with the canvass hearing on February 17, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. in the Voter Registration office, 15 John Galt Rd. If a candidate does not win by a majority vote, a runoff election would be held on March 1, 2011. The canvass hearing for the runoff would be on March 3, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.
 - Fripp Island PSD Special Election

The filing period is from noon December 10, 2010 to noon December 20, 2010. The election date will be held on February 15, 2011 with the canvass hearing on February 17, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. in the Voter Registration office, 15 John Galt Rd.
- *Precinct Proposals*— Mr. Marshall stated that the purpose of the precinct “housekeeping” was for anticipation of the 2010 census data. He informed the members that what he was reviewing was not reapportionment, nor did it involve redistricting. The precincts targeted for splitting are those with over 2,000 voters. He presented the board with two options:
 - Option One:

Split Sun City 4B (current size 3,012 voters) into three precincts. Consolidate Hilton Head 8A (current size 334 voters) and *Hilton Head 8B* (current size 680 voters), which would give the new precinct a combined total of 1,014 voters. Consolidate Hilton Head 6B (current size 558 voters) and Hilton Head 7A (current size 726 voters), giving us a combined total of 1,284. Split Bluffton 2C (current size 2,069 voters), and split Chechessee (current size 2,010 voters) precincts.
 - Option Two:

Split Sun City 4B (current size 3,012 voters) into three precincts. Consolidate Hilton Head 8A (current size 334 voters) and *Hilton Head 13* (current size 812 voters), giving the new precinct a combined total of 1,146. Hilton Head 8A and 13 are both

in Ward 4 and are beach-front communities with a shared Home Owners Association. Consolidate Hilton Head 6B (current size 558 voters) and Hilton Head 7A (current size 726 voters), giving us a combined total of 1,284. Split Bluffton 2C (current size 2,069 voters), and split Chechessee (current size 2,010 voters) precincts.

Mrs. Bray asked that Bluffton 2B be considered for splitting; however Mr. Marshall explained that Bluffton 2B had less than 2,000 registered voters. If the criteria are set at a lower threshold than 2,000 voters, then Bluffton 2B may be considered, but it would be prioritized behind several other precincts since size of precinct is the primary criteria for consideration. He suggested to the board that the list of actions requested by the Legislature remain small and limited to the five currently proposed to increase opportunity for success.

Mrs. Stewart asked what the process was in splitting precincts. Mr. Marshall explained the process in detail.

Mr. Marshall reiterated that voters were not being moved at this time and precinct “housekeeping” was not reapportionment, nor was it redistricting.

Mr. O’Kane motioned to accept Option 2 with Mrs. Dore seconding. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

- *Post-Election Feedback* – Mr. Marshall presented a list of categories regarding poll managers/elections and recommended they be discussed at the next board meeting on January 26th, 2011. He asked the board to look over the list to determine any additions or changes. The board suggested the following:
 - List the “Poll Workers” category as “Poll Workers/Personnel”.
 - Include technicians and staff to the “Poll Workers/Personnel” category.
 - Under “Equipment” include supply boxes and communication.
- *SCARE Conference* – The Conference will be held January 19 – 22, 2011 in Myrtle Beach. Mr. Marshall stated that he, Mrs. Smalls and Mr. Montgomery would be attending the conference to represent the staff. Mrs. Dore asked what happens at the SCARE conference. Various board members explained the event. Mr. Marshall asked the board members who would like to attend. Mrs. Dore and Mrs. Stewart volunteered to attend to represent the board since they could best benefit from the exposure as new board members.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- *Board Member Stipend* – Mr. Rowe updated the board on the board Members’ stipend. The board continued to discuss the stipend and various ways to handle the issue. Mr. Rowe suggested organizing the information before the board moves too far forward. Mr. Marshall felt the board had a good argument. Mrs. Bray felt no other board or the County Council knew the workings of the board and thought they should. As justification for the board’s stipend, Mr. Marshall suggested making an argument based on the level of responsibility borne by the board, not the number of hours board members put into their duties. Mr.

Marshall reminded the board that the stipend was eliminated by a line-item veto by the Governor when he approved the FY 2011 state budget.

Executive Session

The board took a short break before entering into Executive Session to discuss the nomination of a board member for the vacant Vice-Chairman position. The nomination will be presented to the Legislative Delegation for consideration. At the conclusion of the executive session, Mr. Clifford publicly announced that the board's choice for vice-chairman is Mr. Hewitt.

Other Announcements

The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 26th, 2011 at 3:00 p.m., 102 Industrial Village Rd, Building #2.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.