



BEAUFORT COUNTY COUNCIL

Board of Elections & Registration

15 John Galt Road

P.O. Drawer 1228

Beaufort, SC 29901-1228

Voice: (843) 255-6900 | voter@bcgov.net | Fax: (843) 524-0617

Meeting Agenda

February 23, 2011

2:00 P.M.

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

Type of Meeting: Monthly Board Meeting

Location: Finance Department, 102 Industrial Village Road, Building #2

I. Call to Order

II. Approval Of Minutes From The Meeting On January 26, 2011

III. Unfinished Business

A. Board Member Stipend

IV. New Business

A. Pending Voting Legislation

B. Budget Committee Report

V. Announcements

A. Next Board Meeting:

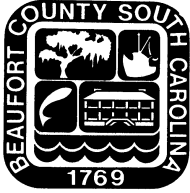
Date: March 23, 2011

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Finance Department,
102 Industrial Village Road, Building #2
Beaufort, SC 29906

VI. Adjournment

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



BEAUFORT COUNTY COUNCIL

Board of Elections & Registration

15 John Galt Road

P.O. Drawer 1228

Beaufort, SC 29901-1228

Voice: (843) 255-6900 | voter@bcgov.net | Fax: (843) 524-0617

Minutes from the January 26, 2011 meeting of the Beaufort County Board of Elections and Registration 102 Industrial Village Rd. Bldg #2, Beaufort, SC

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

Meeting was called to order by Mr. Ron Clifford at 3:05 p.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:

Ginny Ghirardelli – League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island

Sue Feutz – League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island

REVIEW OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 8, 2010 BOARD MEETING:

The minutes of the December 8, 2010 board meeting were presented. The following correction was noted:

- Under Board Members Present, Mr. Hugh O'Kane was left off the attendance.

Mr. Hugh O'Kane motioned, and seconded by Mr. Rupert Williams, that the minutes be accepted with the correction. The December 8th minutes were voted upon, with correction, and approved unanimously.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- *Board Member Stipend* – A copy of the letter Mr. Clifford drafted to Representative William “Bill” Herbkersman concerning the board members’ stipend is attached ¹.

The board members discussed the letter and the issue of the board members’ stipend. Mr. Clifford stated he was going to draft a letter to County Council Chairman Weston Newton and the County Council; however the drafting of the letter was not developing correctly so it was dropped.

Mr. Jim Rowe offered to draft a letter to County Council. Mr. Rowe felt the Board should go to the next County Council meeting on February 14th to discuss the issue with County Council.

The Board discussed Mr. Rowe’s recommendation. County Councilman Paul Sommerville, the Board’s liaison to County Council, explained how agenda and non-agenda items get to be heard before the County Council.

Mr. O’Kane suggested going through a County Council Committee to get on the County Council agenda may be more beneficial. Mr. Clifford also recommended going through a County Council Committee first before attempting to get an audience with the full County Council. Mrs. Beverly Dore motioned, and Mr. Rowe seconded, to have a committee go to the Community Services Committee of County Council to get on their agenda to discuss the Board’s Stipend Resolution that was drafted earlier. The motion was voted upon and passed unanimously.

Mr. Rowe and Mr. Clifford volunteered to attend the Community Services Committee meeting on February 21, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. in the Finance Department’s conference room, at 102 Industrial Village Road, Beaufort Industrial Village #2.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Marshall presented his report to the board and public.

- *General Election 2010 Feedback* – Mr. Marshall presented a draft of feedback from the 2010 General Election. The board took a few minutes to review the document.

Mrs. Ellen Bray recommended that the board needed to reconsider the poll manager training committee.

Mr. O’Kane mentioned a lot of the individual items that appears on the list should be addressed during the briefings.

Mr. Dean Hewitt suggested a list of concerns should be made and distributed to the clerks so the clerks would then address the issues/problems with the poll workers.

Mr. Marshall agreed with Mrs. Bray's comments about standardizing training for poll workers; however, he disagreed with Mr. Hewitt's comments that only a few poll workers are causing problems or making mistakes.

Dr. Emile Bernard thought there should be specialized training for Clerks to be sure the poll managers are doing things correctly. Mrs. Bray stated when she first arrived as a board commissioner, the clerks and poll managers were told they were equal but the clerks had extra duties.

Mr. Marshall suggested having a meeting to concentrate solely on the General Election 2010 Feedback. After consideration, the board agreed and Mr. Clifford announced the meeting would be held after the 11:00 a.m. Hilton Head Island Ward 3 Special Election Canvass Hearing on February 17, 2011.

Mr. Marshall inquired if Mrs. Norma Stewart or Mrs. Dore had any comments. Mrs. Stewart said she was excited on the prospect of the reapportionment by the South Carolina State Election Commission.

Mr. Marshall briefly highlighted the current legislations that will affect elections. The pending Bills are listed below. During this time, Ms. Ginny Ghirardelli asked to speak to the board and presented the League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island's position concerning the photo id bill (H3003/S1). See statement titled, *In Case You Missed It*, attached. Ms. Ghirardelli thanked the board for the opportunity to present the League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island's perspective of the bill.

The bills discussed by the board:

- S1
- S209
- S333
- S404
- H3003
- H3110
- H3349
- H3392
- H3443

The board discussed details of H3003.

(End of Executive Director's Report)

Mr. O'Kane requested the board meetings be scheduled for 2:00 p.m. to accommodate the South of the Broad board members, since the board meetings are no longer held in a centralized location. Mrs. Bray motioned, and Mrs. Dore seconded, for all future scheduled board meetings start at 2:00 p.m. The motion was voted upon and passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.



BEAUFORT COUNTY COUNCIL

Board of Elections & Registration

15 John Galt Road

P.O. Drawer 1228

Beaufort, SC 29901-1228

Voice: (843) 255-6900 | voter@bcgov.net | Fax: (843) 522-8623

Ron Clifford
Chairman

January 21, 2011

Scott M. Marshall
Executive Director

The Honorable William "Bill" Herbkersman
151 Gascoigne Bluff Road
Bluffton, SC 29910

Board Members:

Emile Bernard

Ellen Bray

Beverly Dore

Dean Hewitt

Hugh O'Kane

James Rowe

Norma Stewart

Rupert Williams

Representative Herbkersman,

I am writing on behalf of our Beaufort County Board of Elections and Registration. The whole board is upset about the stipend being eliminated from the state budget. This is particularly upsetting since the stipend, as I understand it, was put in place through Legislation and should not be struck out without due process.

We feel that the Boards of Elections and Registration are working boards; not just administrative bodies. They are charged with a large responsibility to put together fair, ethical, legal, unbiased elections which are the backbone of a democracy. As you are aware, volunteers putting in time for a briefing and an election day make \$120. Our board recruits 500 plus volunteers, helps with the briefing and works the 14 hour election day. We then meet for a canvass hearing to certify the election results. Our board also has 10 scheduled board meetings per year, as well as an equal number of committee meetings. Our concern as a whole is that our previous Governor deemed the boards were not worthy of the small stipend that had been legislated.

We respectfully request that our delegation make every effort to reinstate the stipend for all forty-six Boards of Elections and Registration in the state.

Sincerely,

Ron Clifford, Chairman
Beaufort County Board of Elections and Registration

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

In Case You Missed It

The following was published on the editorial page of the Island Packet Jan. 29, 2010:

Voter photo ID a solution without a problem

The League of Women Voters believes that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed. We monitor activity affecting voting, and we believe legislation recently proposed to alter voting procedures deserves the public's attention.

The South Carolina House of Representatives has passed and sent to the Senate House bill H3418, commonly known as the voter photo ID bill. The League believes this measure should not become law for several reasons:

It is a barrier to voting. A voter would be required to show a driver's license or military ID to vote. There are 343,250 registered voters in South Carolina who do not have a driver's license or an ID issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles. Most people affected by this requirement would be minorities, senior citizens, the handicapped, and the poor. To address that, the bill would require that the State pay for the DMV-issued ID card. But cost of the ID is not the only barrier; it presents extraordinary burdens for some people to get to the location required to get the ID. Our large rural population would incur extra transportation cost.

It is expensive. The Office of State Budget estimates the cost of providing "free" photo ID's at \$850,000 annually. In addition, legal challenges to the law are likely, and the cost to defend it would be a waste of taxpayer resources.

It is unnecessary. Proponents say the voter photo ID is a way to prevent voter fraud. But there is no evidence this kind of fraud exists. No state election law violations or prosecutions were uncovered by league research. S.C. Election Commission officials also say they know of no instances of this kind of fraud.

If Voter Photo ID were implemented, the State Elections Commission would need to conduct an extensive voter education campaign to assure that everyone is aware of the change. Poll clerks, managers and county election officials would also require training on new procedures. Education campaigns and extra training would also impact the budget. And voters can expect the voting process to be longer, as poll workers request the ID and compare photos and signatures for every voter.

Longer lines at the polls discourage qualified voters.

The right to vote, and to have that vote counted, is an essential civil right. Unduly restrictive photo ID requirements are one of the greatest threats to fair and equal voting rights today. State legislators should encourage full participation of the State's citizenry, not needlessly restrict the right to vote.

Virginia Ghirardelli
Barbara Swift
Co-Presidents
League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island