



BEAUFORT COUNTY COUNCIL

Board of Elections & Registration

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Ron Clifford
Chairman

Scott M. Marshall
Executive Director

Board Members:

Ellen Bray

Beverly Dore

Dean Hewitt

Hugh O'Kane

James Rowe

Norma Stewart

Rupert Williams

Minutes from the March 23, 2011 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 2:00 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

Ellen Bray

Beverly Dore

Dean Hewitt

Hugh O'Kane

Jim Rowe

Norma Stewart

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Morris Campbell, Executive Director, Community Services Division

Scott Marshall, Executive Director

Marie Smalls, Dep. Director

Eric Montgomery, Programmer

Kristina Weitz, Board Secretary

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Sue Feutz, League of Women Voters of Hilton Head Island

REVIEW OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 23, 2011 BOARD MEETING:

The minutes of the February 23, 2011 board meeting were presented. Mr. O'Kane noted a typographical error on the first page under "Review of Minutes of January 26, 2011 Board Meeting." The date was listed as January 23; and should have been listed as January 26. Mr. O'Kane motioned, with a second from Mr. Hewitt, that the minutes be approved with the correction. The minutes of the meeting of February 23 were voted upon with the correction and approved unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- *Board Member Stipend* – Mr. Rowe spoke with other county directors, and election commissioners in SC pertaining to their board members' stipends. After polling the counties and organizing the data, Mr. Rowe presented to the board a summary of what the counties are doing given the current lack of state subsidy.

His findings were that a substantial number of counties were continuing to pay the stipends out of the county's general fund, in absence of state subsidy. Some counties provide stipends to their board members, with the stipend amount exceeding previous state subsidy amounts.

Mr. Clifford inquired if the board wanted to write a formal letter requesting to be added to the county council's agenda.

Mr. Hewitt said there were many discussions but no actual documentation presented to county council. He suggested all data be put into a formal request to county council. Mr. Rowe agreed with having a formalized document justifying a stipend for the board. Mrs. Dore felt the information Mr. Rowe had provided was very compelling and she motioned to have a letter drafted to county council and Mr. Weston Newton, the county council chairman. Mr. O'Kane seconded and a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

- *Pending Legislation* – Mr. Marshall updated the board on the progress of House Bill 3003. Mrs. Bray motioned to draft a letter to the Legislative Delegation concerning the pending legislation. Mr. O'Kane seconded and a vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously and Mr. Marshall agreed to draft the letter to the delegation outlining their concerns with House Bill 3003.

Mr. Marshall summarized additional election bills pending legislation, to include House Bill 3433, which modifies certain Beaufort County voting precincts south of the Broad River.

- *Committee Reports* – Mr. Marshall asked if there were any committee reports. There were none.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Bluffton Election Commission* – Mr. Marshall updated the board on the status of the Bluffton Election Commission. The Town of Bluffton had the first reading, of the enabling ordinance. Mr. O’Kane noted for municipal elections only, the municipal election commission could certify their own election and our board would not need to attend.
- *South Carolina Association of Registration and Elections Officials (SCARE) Committee Meetings*. Held on March 11, 2011 in Columbia, SC.

Mr. Marshall updated the board with the priorities of the Legislative Committee on which he serves.

1. Allow no excuse absentee/early voting
2. Delete witness signature requirement on the absentee oath envelopes
3. Amend section 7 of the sc code to allow any registered voter in South Carolina to be a poll worker in any county in sc
4. Voter registration online
5. Amending requirements for legal notices of elections

Mrs. Marie Smalls is on the Scholarship and Budget Committees. The Scholarship Committee decided to incorporate an essay question as part of the application and to rate entries on a point system. Mrs. Smalls said the Budget Committee was looking into some of the advantages of incorporating the organization.

Mr. Eric Montgomery is on the Voting Systems Committee. He reported his committee asked Elections Systems & Software (ES&S) if any other state uses a statewide iVotronic system and was told no. Exceptions were those states which continue to use iVotronics for ADA purposes only.

Mr. Marshall reviewed scheduled certification training which begins in April.

- *Presidential Preference Primaries (PPP)* – would possibly be held in January 2012. As of this meeting, there was no indication of who will run the election and how it would be funded, or if it the parties would hold them on the same day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Clifford reminded the board the next board meeting will be on April 27, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. in the Finance Department’s conference room, 102 Industrial Village Road, Building #2.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.