

**THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OF CHATHAM COUNTY
MINUTES**

June 10, 2019

BOARD MEMBERS: Thomas J. Mahoney - Chairman
Malinda Hodge – Vice Chair
Marianne Heimes
Antwan Lang
Debbie Rauers

STAFF: Russell Bridges
Lynn Trabue
Robert Carney

GUESTS Alicia Blakely
Tommy Boondry
Ivan Cohen
Larry Dean
Rick Ellison
John Haden
Shirley Wright

CALL TO ORDER **The meeting was called to order at 3:42 P.M. by Thomas J. Mahoney** who then pronounced an Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting began a few minutes later than scheduled to enable the presence of a quorum. **Mrs. Hodge** and **Mr. Lang** had made contact apologizing for running a little late. By 3:50 PM, all Board Members were present.

CHAIR ADDRESS **Mr. Mahoney** indicated that time on the Agenda was available for public comment. He requested that comments be limited to two minutes. If, after the meeting there are questions, they may be asked by visiting the Board of Elections office.

MINUTES

April 2019

Ms. Rauers suggested a discussion regarding how Minutes are to be handled.

Mr. Mahoney noted that **Mr. Lang** would not be participating in the approval of the April Minutes since he did not attend that meeting.

Ms. Heimes expressed her opinion that the Board obtain qualified assistance and advice regarding the Roberts Rules of Order and parliamentary procedure. A Board Member retreat was suggested as a suitable venue to include this effort and to discuss other items of interest.

Mr. Mahoney requested a Motion to approve the April 2019 Minutes.

Ms. Rauers shared her concerns about how the Minutes should be written, as well as the handling procedure prior to the Minutes being presented to the Board Members. She stated that April Minutes did not reflect verbatim motions.

Mr. Lang requested a move toward further discussion of this matter in the next Board Meeting, possibly by inviting a qualified guest to participate and provide suggestions.

Mr. Mahoney renewed the prior discussion about a board retreat where these matters could be considered.

There was discussion regarding a request for a transcript of the March meeting to be included in the Minutes of the April meeting. Comment from the Chair, indicated the subject verbatim motion in the April Minutes would defeat the rejection of the motion put forth in March.

Motion by Marianne Heimes, seconded by Malinda Hodge that the Minutes for the April 8th meeting be approved. There was no further discussion. With only one NAY vote, by **Ms. Rauers**, the **Motion was APPROVED**. **Mr. Lang** recused himself from this vote because he was not present for the meeting.

May 22, 2019

Mr. Mahoney stated that since the May Meeting included a joint meeting segment, with the Board of Registrars, there are two sets of Minutes. He requested a Motion to approve the Minutes from the Board of Elections portion of the meeting.

Motion by Antwan Lang, seconded by Marianne Heimes that these Minutes be approved, **ALL APPROVED**.

May 22, 2019 Joint Meeting Minutes

Mr. Mahoney suggested approving these minutes pending adoption by the Board of Registrars.

Ms. Rauers asked about the Consent Order relative to a 2016 penalty where the check was not processed. She mentioned two SEB violations cited during that time, one for poll number 6-05, and one was for the Riverview Rehabilitation Center on LaRoche Avenue.

Discussion revealed that these situations have been handled and reported to this Board. The County was to pay \$500.00 on behalf of the Board of Elections and \$500.00 on behalf of the Board of Registrars. These resulted from old complaints against the Board of Registrars and the Board of Elections. These were settled, but a check was never cut.

Mr. Lang requested a brief showing all discrepancies during the past ten years that have come up against this Board.

Motion by Antwan Lang, with a second, that these Minutes are approved pending the modifications. **ALL APPROVED.**

TREASURER'S REPORTS

April 2019

Ms. Rauers commented about Repairs and Maintenance, Account Number 522200, allocating \$100,000. She asked about the cost of repair insurance for machinery being \$68,000, leaving a balance of \$19,000 to \$20,000 that was spent "otherwise", and asked how that money was disbursed.

Russell clarified that those funds go toward any repair items such as air conditioning repairs and maintenance on the building.

Ms. Heimes asked for an explanation of each of the expenses covered in the report.

Mr. Lang suggested detailed information on money spent.

Ms. Rauers suggested a new audit allowing the new Board to begin with a clean slate.

Motion by Antwan Lang, seconded by Marianne Heimes, to accept the April 2019 Treasurer's Report as information. **ALL APPROVED**

May 2019

Motion by Antwan Lang, seconded by Marianne Heimes, to accept the May 2019 Treasurer's Report as information. **ALL APPROVED**

OLD BUSINESS

Operating Budget for 2019-2020

Mr. Mahoney reminded that this budget has been approved by the Board, and we're waiting for the County to fund the budget.

Russell shared that the Operating Budget, from year to year, is largely driven by the number of anticipated elections during the fiscal year. He indicated that if additional money is needed to get through a year, it would be provided by the County. Also, \$500,000 of the new budget request is for the proposed building that should be covered by the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget. At that point, the money available for the new building would be moved from the Operating Budget.

Mr. Lang requested an explanation covering how to include the availability of interim funds for special projects, specifically the worker appreciation luncheon that he is proposing.

Mr. Mahoney suggested that funding requests should be made as early as possible. He indicated that budget discussions might begin as early as November/December for the next budget period.

Russell stated that the County presented their recommendations back in March. Although there is an opportunity to defend our requests, the County will fund our needs if required. He will meet with the Commission on June 20th.

Continued discussions covered the number of additional, full-time employees needed, and a need for written job descriptions.

Pooler Precinct Realignment

Russell provided precinct maps and voter count details for the Pooler area. He emphasized that the tremendous increase in the number of voters accelerated the need for more precincts. A report of active and inactive voters includes Precinct 7-06 with 3,400 voters. Precinct 7-07, Rothwell Baptist Church, has 6,500 voters, and Precinct 7-12, Pooler Church, has grown to 6,400 voters. It should be noted that the number of voters is continuing to grow.

Planning includes consideration toward the growth volume, the speed of growth, as well as pinpointing the specific geographical locations where voter increases are occurring. A proposal being formulated would include splitting Precinct 7-12 along Interstate 16, leaving the current location with 3,200 voters. A new precinct below Interstate 16 would have 3,130 voters. Several location possibilities are under consideration but are not yet confirmed. Two additional voting locations are presently being sought. Early voting, at City Hall, will help ease the voting problems in the Pooler area.

Precinct 7-07 has grown to 6,500 voters, showing a tremendous increase in the northern section. By dividing this area, approximately half of the voters live in the seventh Commission District, and the others reside in the eighth Commission District. This would result in the number of voters in 7-07 being reduced to 3,599 voters. The new precinct, number 8-16, would have the balance of the voters.

Hopefully, these changes would be made by November. For this to happen, all plans must be in place 60 days prior to the election.

Voter Registration will send out new voter cards after one month out from the election. We send out post cards 30 days ahead of the election, and run legal notices. We also issue a press release announcing these changes, and we'll ask the City of Pooler to assist getting the information to the public. Additionally, a push needs to be made through social media to educate the voters.

Legislation, HB 316 – New Voting System.

Russell shared that there is a committee assigned to study the voting equipment proposals, but decisions have not yet been made. Once the choices are made, the State will disburse teams to train the populous. We will also participate in the educating process, and need to plan accordingly.

Board Retreat

Mr. Mahoney suggested that Staff come up with some suggested dates and ideas for a Board Member retreat. Suggestions should include dates, times, places, information sources, and names of professionals who can offer constructive guidance.

Miscellaneous

There was a discussion related to the EasyVote invoice. **Russell** stated that the invoice has been received and has been submitted for payment. Once the payment is processed, training from EasyVote will get under way, beginning with an on-line portion.

Public Comment

It was indicated that several members the public would be interested as participants in the education process for the use of the new voting machines. Also, if they had access to job descriptions for the election functions, they would be willing to assist in searching for and recommending qualified candidates.

Appreciation was expressed to the Board of Elections for progress made. Dissatisfaction was voiced with the Minutes not yet being posted on the web site. There was also frustration mentioned with the lack of response to numerous emails that have been sent to Board Members and Management of the Board of Elections.

An observation was shared that the Board tends to become bogged down while doing their business. However, appreciation was conveyed for their continuing efforts.

There was continuing interest in hiring new Technicians in the maintenance department, and whether there had been any changes in the related job requirements.

All of the comments were appropriately addressed by the Board. The public was invited to visit the Board of Elections office if they had questions that needed attention.

ADJOURNMENT:

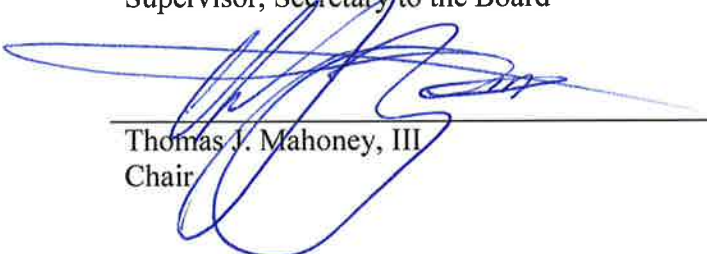
Motion by Marianne Heimes, seconded by Malinda Hodge that the meeting be adjourned. There was no further discussion, and **ALL APPROVED**. The meeting was adjourned at 5:26.

Respectfully Submitted:



Russell Bridges
Supervisor, Secretary to the Board

7/8/19
Date Approved



Thomas J. Mahoney, III
Chair

Byron J. Traluc
Notary Signature

7/8/19
Date Notarized

LYNN F TRABUE
NOTARY PUBLIC
CHATHAM COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA
My Commission Expires April 03, 2020