

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

September 9, 2019

- BOARD MEMBERS:** Thomas J. Mahoney - Chairman
Malinda Hodge – Vice Chair
Marianne Heimes
Antwan Lang
Debbie Rauers
- STAFF:** Russell Bridges
Lynn Trabue
- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order at 3:38 P.M. by **Tom Mahoney** who gave an Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- CHAIR ADDRESS** **Mr. Mahoney** thanked those assembled for appearing at the meeting in spite of the heavy rain. He noted that a sign-up sheet was available for the public who wish to speak during the Public Comment period. **Mr. Mahoney** also requested speakers during the Public Comment period keep their remarks to two minutes and to confine their statements to items on the current agenda. Discussion and deliberations are for the elected Board members. Questions from the public can be asked at the office during office hours.
- MINUTES** **August 12, 2019 Minutes**
Motion by Mr. Lang, seconded by Ms. Heimes, that the Minutes of the August 12, 2019 meeting be approved. There was no discussion. **ALL APPROVED.**
- August 28, 2019 Minutes – Special Meeting**
Ms. Heimes indicated that two corrections were needed to the Minutes. On Page 1, the representative of the City of Pooler should be identified specifically. The individual cited is an attorney representing the City of Pooler. Additionally, on Page 2, **Ms. Heimes** indicated that her motion was with respect to additional machines and precincts. **Ms. Rauers** asked **Ms. Heimes** to clarify her motion made at the August 28, 2019 Special Meeting. **Ms. Heimes** clarified that her motion was to move that the addition of new precincts in Pooler be delayed until the March 24, 2020 Presidential Preference Primary but that additional machines, personnel and police presence be dedicated for the November 5, 2019 General Election.
Motion by Ms. Heimes, seconded by Mr. Lang to approve the minutes as corrected.. **ALL APPROVED**
- TREASURER’S REPORT** **August 2019:**
Russell presented the August 2019 Treasurer’s Report for information.
Motion by Mr. Lang, seconded by Ms. Heimes, that the August 2019 Treasurer’s Report be accepted as information. There was no additional discussion. **ALL APPROVED.**
- OLD BUSINESS** **11/05 General Election**
Russell presented a Staff Report regarding the upcoming 11/05/2019 General Election. He indicated that six (6) municipalities were scheduled for elections but that Vernonburg is being cancelled. The cancellation occurred because only one candidate qualified. The notice of cancellation is being advertised. In addition, he indicated that training classes were delayed due to Hurricane Dorian last week but resumed on Friday, September 6th and are continuing this week and beyond. On the subject of qualifying, **Russell** stated that the qualifying period occurred from August 19 – August 23, 2019. However, the City of Tybee Island will need to have a follow-up qualifying period. There are 67 candidates in total that will be on the ballot across the municipalities. **Russell** provided a list of all candidates to the Board members that is not in the public domain at this time.
- Ms. Heimes** inquired about the number of machines to be used per polling location. **Russell** has a spreadsheet regarding this that he will e-mail to Board members. **Russell** also noted that voter registration is still ongoing so that the number of machines assigned to each poll may need to fluctuate depending on final voter registration totals for each precinct.
- Ms. Rauers** asked specifically about Precinct 7-07 Rothwell Baptist Church and whether additional rooms could be used on Election Day due to the high number of registered voters in that particular precinct. While 12 machines are presently designated for use at this precinct, **Ms.**

Rauers inquired about whether more machines could be added.

Mr. Lang sought clarification of the formula or method for deciding how many voting machines are placed at each precinct. **Russell** indicated that this is determined by using the number of active voters due to a State statute but that there is no exact formula that legally has to be used. **Ms. Heimes** expressed that she agreed that more voting machines at the precinct would be helpful and that one of the factors in the high voter turnout in November 2018 was the number of newly registered voters.

Motion by Ms. Heimes, seconded by Mr. Lang, to approve the placement of 15 voting machines at Precinct 7-07 for the November 2019 General Election and to direct staff to determine if the placement of 18 machines at the location was feasible. The question was called and **ALL APPROVED**.

Ms. Rauers indicated that she would like to see 20 voting machines at Precinct 7-07 and that traffic flow, police presence and technical assistance also needed to be addressed as well.

Russell stated that staff does coordinate with the police and that further efforts will be made to address the issues that **Ms. Rauers** mentions.

Poll Facility Changes

Russell presented a Report detailing a potential relocation of the Precinct 8-15 polling place from the Garden City Recreation Center to the First Baptist Church of Garden City. However, because the required timeline for a poll relocation changed due to new legislation, there is now not enough time to relocate the polling place. **Russell** indicated that the new law requires a report on a polling location change to the State Election Board and the advertising of the change for 30 days. All of this must be completed at least 60 days before Election Day. **Ms. Rauers, Ms. Heimes and Mr. Lang** all inquired about the procedures by which new laws are monitored by staff and the Secretary of State's office. **Russell** indicated that some information is passed down by the Secretary of State and that he also tries to monitor pending new legislation.

New Voting System

Russell distributed a Report on the new voting system to be implemented for the March 24, 2020 Presidential Preference Primary. Dominion Voting is the new vendor. **Russell** indicated that a new voting unit had been expected to arrive by the end of August 2019, but that it has not yet arrived and that he has no timeline of when it may come. **Russell** indicated that 6 counties are part of the pilot program to use the new voting equipment in the November 5, 2019 General Election and he provided the list of those counties. He further indicated that the Secretary of State's office is planning to host training for the community on the new equipment from October 14 – 17, 2019.

Several Board members commented on a recent town hall meeting with Representative Stephens that they were not aware of beforehand and expressed that not having one of the new machines to demonstrate at the town hall meeting was unfortunate. **Ms. Heimes** requested that staff inform Board members of upcoming town halls with elected officials.

Mr. Mahoney mentioned that, in addition to the Secretary of State's planned training for the community, the Board and staff are considering options for additional ancillary training as needed. Details will be developed on future ancillary training that may be needed.

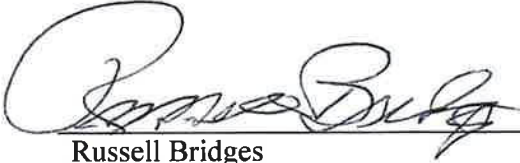
Ms. Rauers inquired about resources for utilizing paper ballots since a Court has ordered that the current DRE machines cannot be used after the November 2019 election. **Russell** mentioned that the new voting equipment is to be in place starting in March 2020 and that Dominion is considering using the Balotar system currently in place as a part of their process for paper ballots.

NEW BUSINESS None.

PUBLIC COMMENT Several members of the public addressed the board.

ADJOURNMENT: **Motion by Mr. Lang, seconded by Ms. Heimes**, to adjourn the meeting.
ALL APPROVED.
The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 PM.

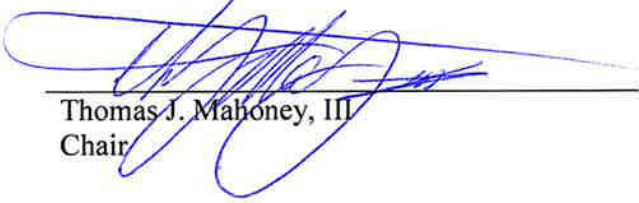
Respectfully Submitted:



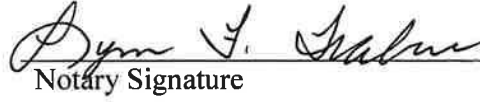
Russell Bridges
Supervisor, Secretary to the Board

10/14/19

Date Approved



Thomas J. Mahoney, III
Chair



Notary Signature

10-15-19

Date Notarized