

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

**December 2019**

**BOARD MEMBERS:** Thomas J. Mahoney - Chairman  
Malinda Hodge – Vice Chair  
Marianne Heimes  
Antwan Lang  
Debbie Rauers (not present)

**STAFF:** Russell Bridges  
Lynn Trabue

**CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order at 12:06 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 and noted that the GAVREO conference was going well and it was good to have staff present for it.

**MINUTES** **November, 2019 Minutes**  
**Motion by Mr. Lang, seconded by Ms. Heimes** that the Minutes of the November 12 2019 meeting be approved. There was no discussion. **ALL APPROVED.**

**TREASURER’S REPORT** **November 2019:**  
**Mr. Bridges** presented the November 2019 Treasurer’s Report for information. **Motion by Mr. Lang, seconded by Ms. Heimes ALL APPROVED.**

**OLD BUSINESS** **12/03 Runoff Election**  
**Mr. Bridges** discussed the December 3, 2019 Savannah Runoff Election and presented the unofficial SOVC and Summary. He stated there was an impressive overall turnout of 25% and there were 366 poll workers employed. **Mr. Bridges** also stated that early voting was brisk and well managed by Registrar and the absentee process was very smooth, handled around 984 ballots, and the entire process including posting the results was completed by 8:30 pm. The election itself was concluded around 10 pm and staff left around 11 pm.

**Certification of the 12/03/19 Runoff Election**  
**Motion by Mr. Lang, seconded by Ms. Heimes** to certify the results of the election,. **ALL APPROVED and there was no discussion.** The appropriate documents were passed around and signed by each party.

**New Voting System**  
**Mr. Bridges** described additional voting equipment that had recently arrived at the elections office – a second ballot marking station, a poll pad, a large ballot box, and the scanner that is secured to the top of the ballot box. **Mr. Mahoney** asked about the design of the scanner and ballot box, which **Mr. Bridges** clarified. Both **Mr. Lang** and **Ms. Heimes** had comments and questions about the process of and potential issues with counting ballots after the polls close. **Mr. Lang** also commented on managing public expectations. **Mr. Bridges** described some of the learning curves we will encounter, such as changes to the absentee system. **Mr. Bridges** will bring recommendations to the January meeting and stated his intent to order supplemental equipment as soon as possible. Both **Ms. Hodge** and **Mr. Lang** expressed urgency in implementing solid plans for preparation and education in 2020. **Mr. Mahoney** stated that we plan to supplement the voter education the state will be providing.

**Ms. Heimes** asked when the old equipment will be removed and **Mr. Bridges** stated that there is not currently a timeline and with the holidays coming up it will be difficult to predict. **Ms. Heimes** also spoke to getting a visual component out on city and state channels. **Mr. Mahoney** expressed worry that the warehouse and current storage options are insufficient to house the new equipment securely. **Mr. Bridges** stated there are other storage options available and when the new equipment is in hand he will have an idea of how much extra space is needed. **Mr. Lang** presented questions about budget and time constraints related to delivery of the equipment to polls. **Mr. Bridges** replied that he has been in discussions with our delivery manager about potential changes.

**Board Retreat**

**Mr. Mahoney** stressed the need for dates of availability from the board in scheduling and planning the board retreat. **Mr. Bridges** targeted January 25<sup>th</sup> and **Mr. Mahoney** said he would contact venues, etc.

**Proposed Precinct and Polling Place Changes**

**Mr. Bridges** spoke about the upcoming need for a new polling place to replace the Garden City Recreation Center. A potential replacement is being discussed and will be on the agenda for January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The poll is more centrally located to those who use it, but is just outside the precinct lines, which lengthens the advertisement time requirements to implement the change.

**Mr. Mahoney** underlined the fact that this a polling place change, not a precinct change.

**Mr. Bridges** stated that precinct changes in Pooler are in effect and an advertising campaign has been planned. Registrar and the Pooler City Clerk will both be involved. **Mr. Lang** asked about the progress toward moving the Savannah High School poll to a city-owned building across the street. **Mr. Bridges** replied that he has spoken to the city clerk and confirmed their assistance but nothing has developed yet.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2020 Calendar**

**Mr. Bridges** sent out a proposed 2020 Calendar to reflect the dates for board meetings, county holidays, and election days, as well as the dates of the next state conference. **Mr. Lang** asked whether a budget workshop was being planned or if one was even needed. Both **Mr. Bridges** and **Mr. Mahoney** replied that it was possible to have one spread through several meeting agendas. **Mr. Lang** motioned to accept 2020 Calendar. **Ms. Hodge** seconded the motion. **ALL APPROVED.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Several members of the public addressed the board.


**ADJOURNMENT:**

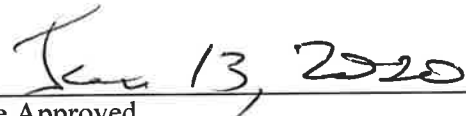
**Motion by Ms. Hodge, seconded by Ms. Heimes, to adjourn the meeting.**

**ALL APPROVED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
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Russell Bridges  
Supervisor, Secretary to the Board

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas J. Mahoney, III  
Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Signature

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Notarized

