

Chatham County Board of Registrars
Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Board members in attendance were Mr. Norse, Mr. Pannell, Ms. Andrews and Mr. Slay. Mr. McRae was absent. Staff present were Ms. German, Mrs. Bostick, and Mr. Pflager.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Pannell requested a motion to approve or amend the minutes of the December 18, 2019 meeting. Ms. Andrews made a motion to approve the minutes as composed. Mr. Norse seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Human Resources:

Ms. German indicated that Human Resources was scheduled to present to the Board regarding use of a temporary agency to support the department during future elections. However, due to a schedule conflict, the Human Resources presentation will be delayed until the February 2020 meeting.

Old Business:

Redistricting – City of Pooler: Ms. German indicated that staff has completed the redistricting of the City of Pooler. Two new precincts were created: Precinct 7-16 has been established with 3,244 voters and Precinct 8-16 has been formed with 2,864 voters. The creation of these two new precincts has reduced the number of voters assigned to the existing Pooler Church and Rothwell Baptist Church precincts. Mr. Norse requested information on what would happen if a voter was not aware of the new precinct for the March 24, 2020 Presidential Primary or simply went to the wrong polling place. Ms. German indicated that the voter would be told which precinct they should go to but could do a provisional ballot at the incorrect polling place if desired.

Temporary Satellite Site (Bull Street Library or May Street YMCA): Ms. German requested approval of the May Street YMCA based on recommendation of staff for the March 24, 2020 Presidential Primary due to the Savannah Civic Center being unavailable during St. Patrick's Day week. Mr. Norse made a motion to approve the May Street YMCA as the alternative site for the March 24, 2020 election. Ms. Andrews seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

March 24, 2020 Presidential Primary: Ms. German provided a couple of updates on the upcoming March 24, 2020 Presidential Primary. Absentee ballots will begin to be mailed on Tuesday, February 4, 2020. Staff has also adjusted the hours for the Pooler City Hall site for March 24, 2020 Advance Voting to 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. based on City of Pooler building opening hours.

New Business:

Budget: Ms. German presented the 2020-2021 proposed Department budget to the Board. This budget will, if adopted, take effect on July 1, 2020. The department's budget meeting with the County is currently scheduled for March 14, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. The proposed budget is due to the County by February 14th, 2020. Ms. German noted increased funding for temporary employees and supplies due to the busier election season in 2020 versus 2019. Mr. Norse made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 budget as drafted. Ms. Andrews seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Sunday Voting (May 19, 2020 General Primary): Ms. German presented a request to change the date of Sunday Voting for the May 19, 2020 General Primary to May 3, 2020 instead of May 10, 2020 due to the Mother's Day holiday. The Board agreed to this change.

Voter Registration Totals: Ms. German reported 200,180 active, 12,552 inactive and 251 pending voters.

Challenges: Ms. German presented 167 deceased, 196 felon and 6 voters requesting to be removed from the voter rolls for challenge. Ms. German indicated all had received letters informing them of the right to request a hearing at the meeting today. No requests for hearing were received. Board members did note that there is a question about how a voter who may be incarcerated can request or attend a hearing if requested. Staff will get in touch with the Sheriff's office to discuss this issue. Ms. Andrews made a motion to approve challenging the above described voters. Mr. Norse seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Public Discussion: None.

The meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.