



BEAUFORT COUNTY COUNCIL

Board of Elections & Registration

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Ron Clifford
Chairman

Dean Hewitt
Vice Chairman

Scott M. Marshall
Executive Director

Board Members:

Rebecca Bass

Ellen Bray

Beverly Dore

Hugh O'Kane

James Rowe

Norma Stewart

Rupert Williams

Minutes from the April 27, 2011 meeting of the Beaufort County Board of Elections and Registration 102 Industrial Village Rd. Bldg #2, Beaufort, SC

Mr. Ron Clifford called meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Scott Marshall, Executive Director, led the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Marshall asked for a moment of silence before the meeting began to honor the memory of longtime county councilman and current-termed Beaufort City Councilman Gary Fordham, as well as for nine U.S. airmen who were killed in Afghanistan earlier in the day.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ron Clifford, Chairman	Beverly Dore	Dean Hewitt
Hugh O'Kane	Jim Rowe	Norma Stewart
Rupert Williams		

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Morris Campbell, Executive Director, Community Services Division

Scott Marshall, Executive Director

Marie Smalls, Deputy Director

Eric Montgomery, Programmer

Kristina Weitz, Board Secretary

PUBLIC PRESENT:

None

REVIEW OF MINUTES OF MARCH 23, 2011 BOARD MEETING:

The minutes of the March 23, 2011 board meeting were presented. Mrs. Stewart noted an incorrect word on page two, under "Board Member Stipend." In the last line of the paragraph, the word "leak" should have been "lack." Mr. O'Kane

motioned, with a second from Mr. Williams, that the minutes be approved with the correction. The minutes of the meeting of March 23 were voted upon with the correction and approved unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Board Member Stipend:

While Mrs. Stewart was attending a training class in Columbia, there was discussion among other counties' election officials regarding the House not including board stipends in their version of the state budget. The Senate's version of the budget included \$533,500 for board stipends; however, she was not sure if the full amount was approved or only a portion.

There was some discussion regarding the board member stipend line item in the department's personnel costs of the budget submitted to the administration, and its possible relationship to an anticipated request to reduce budget requests by 10%. Mr. Clifford requested to leave the stipend as a line item in the budget and Mr. Marshall find 10% savings from other parts of the budget, if necessary.

Executive Director's Report Items

Legislation - Mr. Marshall updated the board on the progress of House Bill 3911 and Senate Bill 848 (both early voting bills) and offered a side-by-side comparison of the two. The board discussed the early voting bills. Mr. Marshall also summarized House Bill 3003 (photo ID) and House Bill 464 (voting receipts for iVotronics).

Bluffton Election Commission - Mr. Marshall updated the board on the status of the Bluffton Election Commission. The Town of Bluffton passed their enabling ordinance and is currently looking for citizens who would like to serve on their newly established election commission.

City of Beaufort Special Election - Mr. Marshall announced the filing closing date for the City of Beaufort special election is June 4, 2011, and that the date for the election is July 19, 2011. The current number of eligible voters is 6,876. Mr. O'Kane asked since the City of Beaufort has their own election commission, if they would be handling everything. Mr. Marshall said the city's ordinance specifies the county election commission chooses the poll managers.

Social Media - Mr. Marshall announced the office now has a Facebook page and a presence on Twitter through the County's Twitter account. Mr. Marshall showed the new Facebook and Twitter pages to the board, and gave a live demonstration on what the pages looked like, and the kind of information they contain. The purpose of establishing a social media presence is to be able to push information to voters.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Clifford asked if there were any committee reports. There were none.

The board discussed the redistricting process. Mr. Hewitt expressed that precinct boundaries should not be completely ignored during the redistricting process. He warned that ignoring them now could cause problems in the future.

Mr. Marshall asked the board if they had any ideas or suggestions on a process to gather board member signatures more efficiently on short notice. Ideas discussed included having a rubber stamp for each board member's signature, however, Mr. Marshall recommended against this option. Mr. Clifford pointed out that the need to gather all board member signatures on short notice is a rare event, and that in most cases the Director and/or Chairman should be able to sign on behalf of the board. Mr. Marshall suggested this is an area the Rules committee should pursue when developing a set of standard operating procedures.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Clifford reminded the board the next board meeting will be on May 25, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. in the Finance Department's conference room, 102 Industrial Village Road, Building #2.

The board meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.