

Minutes of the Richland County Board of Elections and Voter Registration
Thursday, January 15, 2015
4:00pm, County Council Chambers

Board Members in Attendance

Ms. Marjorie Johnson, Chair
Ms. Adell Adams, Vice-Chair
Ms. Jane Dreher Emerson
Ms. Sylvia Holley
Mr. E. Peter Kennedy

Staff in Attendance

Mr. Samuel Selph, Interim Director
Ms. Lillian McBride, Deputy Director of Voter Registration & Absentee Services
Ms. Amie Brunson, Administrative Assistant
Ms. Cheryl Goodwin, Election Systems Coordinator
Ms. Turquoise Hayes, Absentee Representative
Ms. Sheron Harris, Absentee Coordinator
Ms. Sallie Liverman-Richardson, Absentee Representative
Ms. Yonita Simmons, Outreach Coordinator

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. It was noted that a quorum was present to allow the meeting to proceed and that the meeting had been properly posted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act requirements.

Adoption of Agenda

- A motion was made to adopt the meeting's agenda. Seconded. Approved 5-0.

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

- The Board Members reviewed the minutes from December 16, 2014. A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes. Seconded. Approved 5-0.

Board Chair Comments

- Office Consolidation / Relocation
 - Ms. Johnson inquired of the Board whether they were in favor of moving forward with the office / warehouse consolidation and hiring an Executive Director.
 - Ms. Adams indicated that the previous Board had been working on relocating the office for approximately 4 years and that she was in favor of moving forward.
 - Ms. Johnson presented a motion to continue seeking authority from County Council to relocate the department and act to certify an Executive Director. Seconded. Approved 5 - 0.

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- It was noted that all Board Members were desirous of moving forward.
- State Ethics Commission
 - Ms. Johnson reminded all Board Members that they needed to file their State Ethics Information no later than March 30, 2015.
- SCARE Conference
 - Board Members reviewed information regarding the upcoming SCARE Conference to be held in Myrtle Beach, SC on March 4 – 7, 2015.
- Amendment to By-Laws
 - The original bylaws included the time, date and location of meetings. Information had been emailed to all Board Members regarding the availability of the County Council Chambers and the possible change from the 4th Tuesday to the 2nd Wednesday of each month.
 - A motion was made to amend the bylaws to accept the County's offer to change the meeting date to the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Seconded. Approved 5 – 0.
 - Mr. Kennedy was assigned the task of updating the by-laws.
- Personnel Hire Methodology
 - Ms. Johnson submitted 5 alternatives for the Board's consideration:
 1. Do Nothing.
 - The motion failed.
 2. Request from the Human Resource Department a placement Ad at the County's Expense.
 - Seconded. Not Approved 2 – 3.
 3. Request an Executive Search to Hire an External Consultant at the Board's Expense.
 - The motion failed.
 4. Act to Certify the Interim Director Under a Limited 2 Year Agreement
 5. Release Interim Director and Revert to Administrative Management of Department by Former Manager of Department
 - Ms. Johnson informed the Board that Options 1, 2, & 3 can be discussed in open session, but Options 4 & 5 would need to be discussed in Executive Session.

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- A motion was made to revise the agenda to place Option's 4 & 5 of the Personnel Hire Methodology after the Director's Comments to be discussed in Executive Session. Seconded. Approved 5 – 0.

Board Discussion

- FY2016 Budget Proposal
 - Mr. Selph presented the budget request for FY2016. A motion was made to accept the budget as presented. Seconded. Approved 5 – 0.
- Meeting Minutes Recording – Commissioner Emerson
 - Ms. Emerson presented the Board with the proposal to have future Board Meetings recorded. A discussion followed. A motion was made to record future Board Meeting minutes. Seconded. Approved 5 – 0.

Director's Comments & Updates

- Regarding *South Carolina Public Interest Foundation, and William B. DePass, Jr. v. Allen Dowdy, Adell Adams, Elaine DuBose, Herbert Sims, Samuel Selph, and the Board of Elections and Voter Registration for Richland County (2014-CP-40-1361)*, Mr. Selph informed the Board that he had spoken with Mr. Alex Postic, Esquire, and that the judge denied the plaintiff and the defendant's motions to dismiss and the Commission is required to pay \$35,000 in attorney fees.
- Ms. Johnson asked whether the Board Members are authorized to ask the attorney to petition the judge. Mr. Selph stated that he will find out when Mr. Postic will be available to meet and discuss the matter further with the Board.

Call for Executive Session to Discuss Personnel Hire Methodology.

- A motion was made to proceed into Executive Session to discuss Options 4 & 5 of the personnel hire methodology. Seconded. Approved 5 – 0. The Board entered into Executive Session at 6:11pm.
- A motion was made to come out of Executive Session at 7:01pm. Seconded. Approved 5-0.
- The Board indicated that no action and no votes were taken during Executive Session and that the personnel hire methodology items will continue to be discussed at future meetings until action is taken.

Adjournment

- There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.

Recorded by: Amie Brunson, Administrative Assistant