**Minutes of the Richland County Board of Elections & Voter Registration**

**Special Meeting**

**August 20, 2020**

**9:00 AM**

**In Attendance**

**Board Members**

1. Dr. Charles P. Austin, Sr. - Chair
2. Dr. Duncan A. Buell – Vice Chair
3. Mrs. Anjanette D. President
4. Mrs. Yolanda Y. Taylor

**Staff Members**

Ms. Alexandria Stephens

Ms. Michelle D. Harrington

Mrs. Rebecca Brown

Ms. Sheron Harris

Mr. Cale Carter

**Call to Order**

A meeting of the Richland County Board of Elections & Voter Registration was called to order on Thursday August 20, 2020 at 9:00 AM with Chair Dr. Austin presiding.

**Moment of Meditation**

Dr. Austin called for a Moment of Meditation.

**Adoption of Agenda**

Mrs. President moved that we approve the agenda. Mrs. Taylor seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Approval of Minutes** – Mrs. President moved to accept with the amended typos. It should be locations. Seconded by Mrs. Taylor. Dr. Buell noticed an incomplete sentence under Board Comments. He did give a completed statement in regards to the media being welcomed to be a part of the absentee process. Vote in favor was unanimous.

**Director’s Report-** Special Primary for Council District Nine will be held September 8, 2020 and a runoff will take place September 22, 2020 if needed. The notice was posted. Candidate filing began on August 18th and will end on August 25th. Town of Eastover will have an election on October 27th. Updates were given on Curbside Carts and Drop boxes. Lexington & Fairfield County poll workers who assisted during the June Primary were paid & checks were mailed July 31st.

**Manager Division Reports**

**Election Systems-** 28 of 30 PLTS hired. Four more will be interviewed for the remaining two positions. Mr. Mosley is in constant communication with the SEC about Sept. 8th election database. Additional help at the warehouse and special services to help deliver machines for Sept. 8th. Working with Maintenance about warehouse to utilize the space effectively for all of the supplies we will receive.

**Precinct and Poll Workers** – More people are able to come in for open enrollment. 300 letters were mailed to applicants who did not reply initially. August 21st. Recruitment- enlisted 251 completed enrollment and 89 no-shows will do a mass mailing. 421 more people will come in next week. 360 left messages and no responses. 435 yes’ 412 no’s for assignments for November election. 126 of 143 locations who agreed to be polling locations, 17 have not. Some were churches and schools that were under construction.

**Absentee Services-** Candidate filing ends on August 25th at noon. Friday 28th is when the database will be loaded. Absentee voting will begin August 31st for the Special Primary on Sept. 8th. 200 requests to vote absentee for the special election. Four machines will be in the lobby and two in the rear for curbside voting. General Election: All poll workers needed will be working at the absentee satellite locations, and all six locations confirmed. Over 34,000 requests to vote absentee in the General Election and 23,000 returned. Still looking for an opening location, but 34 people confirmed to open ballots.

**Voter Outreach** – Mr. Carter gave an update on all upcoming Outreach Events for the month of September.

**Voter Registration** – There will be an increase in registration requests as time goes by. Voter Registration has been helping with Absentee voter calls.

There was no old or new business.

**Public Participation**

Rep. McDaniel - asked about focusing more on new poll worker applications than old applications. Mrs. Becky Brown stated we have a goal to reach everyone who applies three times to get a response. Some express interest at the DMV and others are applying online. No training is taking place at this time. Applicants are going through open enrollment and paperwork is being submitted to Human Resources. No one is being turned away; seven people are working diligently to answer all applicants who want to be poll workers.

Satellite sites in the Northeast and Northwest corners of the County- Northeast is Parklane Center and North Springs Park Community Center. Northwest is Ballentine Community Center and St. Andrews Park.

Senator Harpootlian – Complimented the Agency about the entire preparation-taking place to get ready for November. Senate is coming back September 2nd to come up with legislation to facilitate voting in November. Legislation will be sent to Dr. Austin that addressed everything Marci Andino recommended. Money is available and the Delegation will fight very hard to get it for us. He asked where the satellite locations will be and when will they be opened. Dreher High School was suggested as a satellite location since it has been one in the past.

Satellite locations will be opened October 7th and 2020 Hampton St. will be opened October 5th.

Every voting machine is checked to make sure they are all serviced and operational. There will be a checklist for each machines. Drop boxes will be available at all seven satellite locations, not at other sites.

Curbside carts- Director Stephens stated she has asked about the carts, and will receive a call when they are available.

Will poll workers train poll workers? Discussions are taking place and more will take place before training begins.

North Richland Democrats asked if Parklane will open October 7th, and asked if voters request an absentee ballot application can vote at their polling location. Answer to both is yes.

A suggestion was made to have more than seven satellite locations. That will be taken into consideration.

Discussions were also had helping the elderly with improving curbside voting and going to nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

**Board and Director Comments-** Dr. Austin commended Director Stephens and the Staff on all that has done to prepare for the November Election.

Director Stephens stated as time goes by, she will work hard to address concerns. We are working hard to ensure November 3rd goes as smoothly as possible.

Dr. Buell commented on the speed of voting on Election Day. Mrs. President thanked Mrs. Stephens and staff for their hard work and feels we are on trend to have a successful election.

Dr. Buell moved to adjourn and Mrs. President seconded.

**Submitted by:** **Ms. Michelle D. Harrington, Administrative Coordinator**

The next meeting will be September 3, 2020 at 9:30 AM.