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

**Elections & Voter Registration Conference Room**

**February 13, 2019**

**4:00 PM**

**In Attendance**

**Board Members**

Jane Emerson, Acting/Interim Chair

E. Peter Kennedy

Shirley Mack

Sylvia Holley

**Staff Members**

Thad E. Hall Deputy Director

Michelle D. Harrington Administrative Assistant

* Staff (Dept. Heads & others)

**Call to Order**

A meeting of the Richland County Board of Elections & Voter Registration was called to order in the Council Chambers on Wednesday 2/13/19 at 4:00 PM, Interim Chair Emerson presiding.

**Adoption of Agenda**

Ms. Emerson moved that we adopt the agenda as outlined. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Approval of Board Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Kennedy moved that we adopt the minutes as amended. The vote in favor of was unanimous.

**Board Chair Comments**

Interim Chair Emerson announced Mr. Suleman resigned. Ms. Emerson was asked by Ms. Mack why the resignation was not handled by the entire board. Ms. Emerson stated it wasn’t necessary to do so. Interim Chair Emerson stated Thad E. Hall was Interim Director based on the Organizational Chart and stated Acting Director Hall’s resume was available upon request. Mr. Hall was then given the floor.

**Director’s Comments**

Mr. Hall discussed the election accounting issues from the 2018 election. He noted that the problem centered on four iVotronics that stopped working: two in-person absentee voting machines and one machine each in two precincts. In each case, the office had reason to think the votes were accounted for. Better processes and procedures would have been identified these missing votes.

The management team is addressing this problem by creating a robust system of checks throughout the election, creating checklists, identifying where the County need additional Election Day and election night staffing, and creating a better process for handling iVotronics that fail during the election The Office will be working with other counties to learn from their processes, as well as with the State Elections Commission.

The Board agreed unanimously to ask the State Election Commission to update the posted election results for 2018 to include the 1,040 votes that were not included in the 2018 election canvass.

**Windsor Lake Election**

Mr. Hall presented the proposed Windsor Lake election to the Board. The fees collected by the association would cover the costs associated with the maintenance of the dam and associated structures to prevent flooding or other damages. This only affects the homeowners that are adjacent to the lake and have access to it. The Petition has been validated by the Election office along with the associated documents. Propose holding Election on May 14, 2019 in conjunction with Town of Forest Acres.

Mr. Flynn, the Representative for the Windsor Lake HOA, was given the floor to explain the process.

Ms. Mack made a Motion to accept the Petition certification and approval. Ms. Emerson seconded the Motion. It was accepted and approved unanimously.

**Board Comments**

Ms. Mack asked about a failed L&A in District 20 in the 2018 runoff election. Neither Mr. Terry Graham nor Mr. Thad Hall were aware of the issue, as it was before they were employed by the County.

Ms. Holley asked when discrepancy with the votes was discovered. Mr. Hall stated it was identified when the state Board of Election asked why the Election Night Reporting data did not match data on voter check-ins. The matter was investigated and the Office was able to reconcile all paper/absentee votes. The failed votes matched numbers on voting machines handled by contractor from Elections Systems & Software. Two of ten machines that needed to be processed were not processed and this was noticed until January 2019. Mr. Hall also stated that the missing votes did not affect the outcomes of any races.

Interim Chair Emerson stated new simpler machines were forthcoming. The State Election Commission had made it clear there would be a uniform system, with a paper component.

Ms. Holley had issues with how the failed votes affected the state and how the state is viewed by other parts of the Country.

**Citizen/Public Input**

Representative Seth Rose addressed the Board, offering his assistance and also thanked the Board for their service. He stated the election issues would be addressed, and that he was co-sponsoring the streamlining of voting machines and having a paper trail.

Representative Dick Harpootlian addressed the Board. He stated his displeasure with the amount of time needed to announce him as winner in Richland County. He further addressed appointing new Board members, those who would take their jobs seriously. A heated exchange between Rep. Harpootlian and Board Member Ms. Mack followed.

Ms. Holley suggested Former Director Sam Selph be brought back. She also questioned the qualifications of Interim Director. Ms. Mack suggested Elections Manager, Mr. Graham as Director.

A poll clerk then addressed the Board.

**Adjournment**

Ms. Emerson moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Kennedy. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:15PM.

**Next Scheduled Meeting**

The next scheduled Board of Elections & Voter Registration meeting has yet to be determined.

**Submitted by:** Michelle D. Harrington, Administrative Assistant