

RICHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES 02-09-2021

Chairman Bill Freytag called the meeting to order on the Zoom platform at 3:00 P.M. on Tuesday February 9th, 2021. The Roll Call was as follows: Bill Freytag, present, Joseph H. Mudra, present, Lydia Reid, present, and Karen Browning, present. Also present at this meeting were Director Paulette Hankins and Deputy Director Jane Zimmermann, as well as guests Megan Whatman and Betty Preston. Daniel O'Brien, staff member, was also present to monitor/host the meeting.

Chairman Freytag asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the 12-08-2020 regular meeting and to use the board members' signature stamps on the document. Mr. Mudra made the motion to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Browning and passed unanimously by voice vote 4-0. Director Hankins next reviewed the bills for the timeframe of the December meeting until February 8th in the amount of \$132,961.00 from the General Fund, and two pay periods totaling \$27,366.44. A motion to approve the bills as presented was made by Mr. Mudra, seconded by Mrs. Browning and passed unanimously by voice vote 4-0.

There were no items of old business to come before the board.

Under new business, Director Hankins reviewed the petitions filed by candidates for the May 4th Primary Election. A motion to certify the Democratic candidates in the City of Mansfield, Sammie Dunn, Joshua Koehler, Jon VanHarlingen, and Aurelio Diaz as nominated without a Primary and advanced to the November 2021 General Election ballot and to use the board members' signature stamps, was made by Mr. Mudra. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Browning and passed unanimously by voice vote 4-0. The Republican candidates in the City of Mansfield, Christopher Beale, Stephanie Zader, Laura Burns, Eleazer Akuchie, and Jason Lawrence were certified to the May 4th, 2021 Primary Ballot in a motion by Mrs. Browning. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Reid and passed unanimously by voice vote 4-0. In the City of Ontario, the Republican Candidates, Mr. Hutchinson, Mr. Gallo, Mrs. Hellingner, Mr. Medwid, Mr. Rehfeldt, and Mr. Sapp were nomination on through to the General Election without a Primary in a motion offered by Mrs. Browning. It was also included in the motion to use the board members' signature stamps. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Reid and passed unanimously by voice vote 4-0. The City of Shelby candidates and the Ontario Charter Commission candidates were not certified at this time since their filing deadlines are not until February 18th. Director Hankins stated that the deadline for write-ins to file a Declaration of Intent to be a Write-In form is February 22nd. She added that in accordance with state laws, no write-ins could be accepted by the board for the Democratic Primary in the City of Mansfield or the Republican Primary in the City of Ontario since the board had eliminated the primaries in these districts per R.C. 3513.02.

Deputy Director Jane Zimmermann next reviewed the Questions and Issues filed for the May 4th, 2021 Primary ballot. Deputy Director Zimmermann explained that the City of Mansfield filed 2 issues - a Charter Amendment Income Tax Renewal and an Income Tax for Safety, Parks etc., which is commonly referred to as the Pride Tax. She stated that the City of Ontario had filed a resolution for the Formation of a Charter, the Villages of Shiloh and Plymouth both filed a Tax Levy Renewal, Washington Township had filed a Bond Issue, and a Local Option petition had been filed for Kingwood Center in precinct Man 4-B. A motion to certify all the issues to the May 4th, 2021 Primary Election ballot was made by Mr. Mudra, seconded by Mrs. Browning, and passed unanimously by voice vote 4-0.

The next item of new business was the review of the November chargebacks. The document was displayed on the screen, and Deputy Director Zimmermann informed the members that the total amount of the chargebacks was \$19,318.31. A motion to approve the totals and to use the members' signature stamps on the document was made by Mr. Mudra, seconded by Mrs. Browning and passed unanimously by voice vote 4-0. Director Hankins next reviewed important upcoming deadlines/dates with the board members. A document was displayed with the date of April 5th being the registration deadline, April 6th as the start of Early Voting, and listing all the hours for the Early Voting period.

Next on the agenda was an update on the status of the new ballot printers and the new EP's. Director Hankins informed the board that the new ballot printers were ordered and should arrive in the office by the end of the month and that training on the new units would commence soon after in order to be ready to print ballots by the March 19th UOCAVA start of Military and Overseas Civilian voting. She stated that the contract and quote for the new EP's had been sent to the Prosecutor for review before the finalization, and the Prosecutor's office had subsequently informed us that we must go out for RFP's for these units. Director Hankins stated that due to time constraints, they would need to use the old EP's for the Primary Election.

Director Hankins reminded the board members of the reorganizational meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 2nd at 3:00 p.m. on Zoom. Under other business, Director Hankins stated that 3 appointment forms had been submitted by the Richland County Republican Central Committee. Forms appointing Mr. Larry Collins to Ontario Council At Large, David Falquette to Mansfield City Council President, and Stephanie Zader to Mansfield City Council At Large were approved/accepted by Mrs. Browning. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Reid and passed unanimously by voice vote 4-0.

Director Hankins noted that this would be board member Karen Browning's last meeting, and thanked her for her contributions to the board as a knowledgeable and open-minded member. Ms. Hankins said that she was an asset to the board and would be missed. The board members all agreed and thanked her for her service. Director Hankins reminded Mr. Mudra and Megan Whatman that they would need to be sworn in and have their paperwork filed prior to the March 2nd reorganizational meeting.

With no further business to come before the board, Mrs. Browning made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Reid, and passed by voice vote 4-0. Chairman Freytag adjourned the meeting at 3:21 P.M.

Date approved _____

Bill Freytag

Joseph H. Mudra

Lydia J. Reid

Karen J. Browning (term ended)

Attest:

Paulette Hankins

Jane Zimmermann