

Augusta County Electoral Board Meeting  
Augusta County Government Center  
Registrar's Office Board Room  
December 14, 2016

The business meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM. Present were Ruth Talmage, chair; Cliff Garstang, vice chair; and Tom Long, secretary. Two chief officers of election, Gary Chatelain and David Leatherwood, also attended.

The board discussed the 7:00 PM presentation to the Board of Supervisors requesting approval of funding for the purchase of new Unisyn digital/optical voting equipment from Election Services Online (ESO).

Tom updated the board on his interview with WHSV that afternoon and about communications with ESO on equipment delivery times and their continuing commitment to the 50/50 split payment.

The board discussed the importance of having new equipment in the spring of 2017 to facilitate training of staff, officers of election, and the voters. With a likely primary in June there will be many advantages in using the new equipment during a lower turnout election. Gary and David discussed the long wait times voters experienced in November and explained numerous reasons why the new voting equipment and organization in polling places will help reduce lines. The board decided that Cliff will begin the presentation to the Board of Supervisors with key points about the need for new, reliable equipment that provides a paper trail and is trusted by the public; Tom will update the supervisors on our discussions with ESO; and Ruth will conclude with an emphasis on obtaining the equipment in the spring so we will have adequate time for training and a first use in the June primary. Gary and David indicated they plan to speak.

Cliff reminded board members to make hotel reservations for the VEBA Conference March 3-5, 2017. Connie will submit the conference registration forms and fees and pay the annual dues.

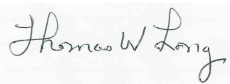
Tom reported that he heard concerns about two issues concerning officer of election pay: receiving the pay after the Thanksgiving holiday and some confusion about compensation for attending the optional equipment workshop. On the timeliness of receiving pay it was noted that November 8 was the latest date possible for election and tabulation of results was the first priority of staff. In the future our staff will work with the Finance Office to assure payment is issued as quickly as possible. Cliff noted that direct deposit would shorten the time by a few days. On the confusion about payment for the equipment workshop the board agreed that in the future we need be very clear about what is and is not paid and the payment voucher form shall only include entry lines for paid training for that election cycle.

Cliff moved and Ruth seconded to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2016 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The board did not set a future meeting date but will be subject to the call of the chair.

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



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Tom Long, secretary