

Augusta County Electoral Board Meeting
Augusta County Government Center
Registrar's Office Board Room
February 3, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 AM. Present: Ruth Talmage, chair; Cliff Garstang, vice chair; Tom Long, secretary; Connie Messick, general registrar; Robin Moyer, chief assistant general registrar; and Jerry Orlando, equipment manager.

Ruth moved to approve the minutes of the January 5 meeting. Cliff seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Connie reported that interviews for the part/full time assistant registrar are scheduled for Wednesday February 8. Eight applications were received and three were selected for interviews. It is anticipated that the position will be offered by the end of the week.

Jeremy Shifflett (school board) and Tim Martin (commonwealth attorney) failed to complete campaign finance reports by the January 17 deadline. Tom moved to assess a \$25 fine for Jeremy (second offense) and \$10 fine for Tim Martin (first offense). Cliff seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Connie will send letters by certified mail.

Mileage reimbursement is now 53.5¢ per mile. Connie will send new reimbursement forms.

ESO contracts were received on Wednesday. Old equipment is ready for the recycler who will pick it up on Tuesday. One touchscreen will be kept for "historic" reasons.

ESO Box account is a way to communicate with ESO for all documents. All board members and the general registrar plan to set up an account.

Delivery and testing of the new equipment will be March 29 and 30. Training will be March 31. Connie will see if two technicians can assist with unpacking equipment.

Jerry raised the issue of pollbook officers having the ballot officer stationed immediately next to the pollbook officer rather than being a separate station at which voters must stop.. Discussion on flow and officer roles will continue. Board members will inquire of other localities how optimal polling place flow is best achieved.

Connie displayed an Office Depot rolling equipment box and literature about a rolling ballot box. The Office Depot box will be used for the primary along with existing ballot bags. For November we plan to will have a second larger rolling ballot box that will accommodate sealed ballot boxes that can be delivered to the court. Tom moved to authorize Connie to purchase the rolling equipment boxes from Office Depot. Cliff seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. The board will revisit the topic of the large rolling ballot box after the VEBA conference at which alternatives may be displayed by vendors.

Ruth raised the issue of delivering ballots to the Court House. We will consider this as part of bids from contractors.

Candy Hensley joined the meeting at at 9:54. She presented a Summary of Election Day Survey Instruments with issues from the past election and issues to be addressed in future elections. The document is made part of the minutes. We discussed the specific situations and potential remedies.

Candy reported that the county has not received a report from the DOJ inspectors who visited various polling places on Election Day in November.

We need to update our equipment delivery list and get a proposal written appropriate for bids from contractors.

Discussed office security both in the storage room and in the front office during in-person absentee voting. The board is satisfied that adequate security measures are being taken by the general registrar.

The board discussed refurbishing the touchscreen cases for use as privacy booths. Candy informed the board that the county maintenance department is currently short staffed so that may not be an option. Other possibilities include having the work done as a Tech School project or one by of our technicians.

The board discussed the need for an enlarged secure storage area in the "Social Services" building.

Candy left the meeting at 10:32 AM.

The board discussed needs for retaining ballots on at the Court House. We need to have future discussions with the clerk of court about storage.

Board members reviewed the Officer of Election master list. Discussion include a reemphasis on the various duties expected of the chief and the assistant chief. The board and general registrar believe excellent opportunities for these discussion are during training with the new equipment and when chiefs are administered the oath while picking up equipment for an election.

Cliff moved to nominate the individuals on the master list, as edited, as officers of election for a two year term. Ruth seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. The board also edited the letter to be sent to officers. The letter will be signed by all three board members.

Tom moved to reappoint the four equipment technicians. Cliff seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

The board discussed the pay for the student helpers on election night and made no changes to existing policy. Tom will contact SDHS for four students to assist at the June primary.

The board discussed House Bill 1598 which will require proof of citizenship for individuals registering to vote after December 30, 2017. Individuals not providing such proof will only be registered to vote in federal elections only. The bill has passed the House of Delegates. The board sees a number of problems with the legislation including, but not limited to:

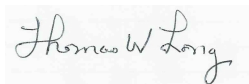
- maintaining dual registration rolls will have additional expense and potential for error
- an additional burden and potential expense on an individual registering to vote
- it will inhibit voter registration drives
- voters "re-registering" to be qualified for all elections will create additional work and potential errors
- federal-only voters may attempt to vote in state elections creating confusion and conflict.
- difficulties and confusion in the event both federal and state races/issues are on the same ballot

Tom moved that the Augusta County Electoral Board stand in opposition to HB 1598 and communicate our concerns to Senator Emmett Hanger and to all members of the Senate Privileges and Elections Committee. Ruth seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Tom will circulate a draft letter to be sent to Senator Hanger, to all members of the Senate P&E Committee and to VEBA leadership.

Our next meeting will be March 7, 2017 at 9:00 AM. This will be our required reorganization and will be immediately after the VEBA conference that will facilitate discussion on “take-aways” from what was learned at the conference.

The meeting adjourned at 12:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas W. Long". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Tom Long, secretary