

Augusta County Electoral Board Meeting
Augusta County Government Center
Registrar's Office Board Room
March 7, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM. Present are Ruth Talmage, chair; Cliff Garstang, vice chair; Tom Long, secretary; Connie Messick, general registrar; and Robin Moyer, chief assistant general registrar.

Tom moved to reappoint Ruth as chair, Cliff as vice chair, and Tom as secretary for the term commencing March 1, 2017 and ending February 28, 2018. Cliff seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Ruth moved to approve the minutes of the February 3 meeting. Cliff seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Connie reported that Linda Kelly has been appointed part time assistant registrar. Linda has experience as an officer of election and has previously assisted in the office.

Connie reported that all of the equipment custodians have signed the oaths. Connie has notified them of dates related to receiving the new equipment.

Connie provided a master list of officer whose oaths have been received and a list of individuals who decline appointment.

VREO classes are April 17-18 in Richmond. The seven classes lead to registrar certification; four of the classes will be offered over these two days. Both Connie and Robin wish to attend and work toward certification. Tom moved to approve their attendance and the related travel expenses. Cliff seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Connie showed us a touchscreen case which has been refurbished with a plywood insert for use as a stand-alone voting booth. The plywood may need a center support to make a more stable surface. Board members need to work with chiefs in each precinct to determine to confirm numbers the numbers of booths and tabletop privacy screens needed in each precinct.

The board discussed equipment storage. The room will be locked and shared only with USDA and Headwaters Conservation. While we will not have a separate lockable area, we will cordon off our section and equipment will be labeled by precinct. Some equipment may be stored in the bins. Cliff suggested we should purchase one or two additional ballot bins as reserves for the future. No action was taken but the board was in general agreement.

The board discussed unpacking of new equipment including recycling/discarding packing materials. Representatives of ESO will be here for three days of unpacking, acceptance testing, and training.

The board discussed training dates for officers and for chiefs to introduce the new equipment and prepare for the June primary:

- June 5 at 6:00 PM officer training
- June 6 at 6:00 PM officer training
- June 8 at 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM chief and assistant chief training

The board discussed equipment open house dates to introduce the public to the new voting equipment. The first will May 10 from 3:00 to 6:30 PM in the South Board Room prior to a Board of Supervisors meeting. A second open house in May/June will be scheduled, perhaps in the Fishersville area. Additional open houses will be scheduled for late summer at locations in each magisterial district. The equipment will be available for public examination at the Registrar's Office.

Ruth moved and Cliff seconded to amend the budget to include costs for ESO representatives to conduct L&A testing and for an ESO representative for the June primary. After our first use of the new equipment the board will reevaluate to the need for both ESO services in future elections. The motion was approved unanimously.

The board discussed training dates for 2018 and beyond. The county room reservation calendar fills quickly. The board advised Connie to reserve rooms two years in advance and to reserve extra dates that may not be needed.

The board discussed electronic poll book options. The "state solution" is not yet certified. Advocate will be available through June. After June we will either have to pay for Advocate or use the state solution, if certified. Cliff and Tom reported on the tablet based EPBs that were demonstrated at the VEBA conference.

The board discussed our need to have BOS continue investments in the capital account for upgrades to the EPBs and potential needs for polling place accessibility. Connie will include this request in her budget discussion with the county administrator.

The board reviewed the state code regarding precinct size, including when a precinct will be split and how many scanners and privacy booths are needed for the number of registered voters in the precinct.

Cliff moved that the Cedar Green polling place be moved from BME to BMMS for the June primary. Tom seconded. BME is closing at the end of the school year but we can use it in June if necessary. The board prefers to move to the new BMMS location for June primary. The motion was approved unanimously. Cliff and G.W. will again view the site to determine if the BMMS gym or cafeteria is the best location. Cliff will contact the county attorney and Connie will contact the Board of Supervisors to move forward with the ordinance to move for the June primary. We anticipate being the Board of Supervisor's agenda for March 22.

Request for Quotes for contractors should be posted online today with a response deadline of March 21. Tom will contact previous bidders to alert them of the RfQ posting.

The board discussed the Virginia Fusion Center presentation at VEBA and recommends that Connie contact the State Police have a security audit for the office. Connie will pursue this request and let the board know when it is scheduled.

We reviewed options for privacy ballot boxes for curbside voting and reusable see-thru envelope 7. We are also considering sleeves for laptops that should help consolidate. Connie is meeting with a representative from Rifkin Co. on March 22 at 10:00 AM.

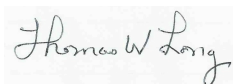
The VEBA Western District meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2017, probably in Waynesboro.

Cliff posed the question about what, if anything, we as an Electoral Board can do to increase voter registration and voter turnout. Some ideas discussed included: visits to HS government classes, at the voting equipment demos, at the county fair and other community events, through the local newspapers.

Cliff suggested exploring ways to build our relationship with the Board of Supervisors. Ideas include a reception for supervisors as part of our equipment open house on May 10 and working closely with individual supervisors as we schedule equipment open houses in late summer.

The meeting adjourned at 11:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Tom Long, secretary