

Columbus County Board of Elections

Tuesday, August 22, 2023

5:00 p.m.

Agenda Item #1: Meeting Called to Order

At 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, Jeffery Register, Chairman called the Columbus County Board of Elections meeting to order.

Agenda Item #2: Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Jeffery Register, Chairman

Lynn Fairfax, Member

Lynne Thompson, Secretary

Wanda Brooks, Member- Tardy 5:14pm

Ashley Collins, Director

Frederick Meekins, Member

Agenda Items #3 and #4: Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

- Invocation – Mr. Register
- Recited – Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item #5: Board Agenda Approval

Board member, Mr. Meekins made a motion to amend the agenda. Mr. Fairfax seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Agenda Item #6: Approval of Minutes- July 18, 2023, July 27, 2023 & August 1, 2023

Board member, Mr. Fairfax made a motion to accept the minutes. Mrs. Thompson seconded and the motion was passed.

Agenda Item #7: Public Comments

No public comments.

Agenda Item #8: Approval of The Standard Operating Guide

After the board reviewed *The Standard Operating Guide*, Mr. Register requested the following changes:

- page 3 after fair add: *safe*
- page 6 in paragraph 3 remove the words - *and its*
- page 15 add another bullet point: *to notify board immediately if you have been arrested or under investigation by any law enforcement agency*
- page 58 after terrorism add: *acts of violence, intimidation or threats*
- page 66 in C. add: *Attachment 1 and D. adding attachment 2*
- page 69 beside terrorism heading add: *violent acts by domestic, individuals or groups.*

A motion was made by Mrs. Thompson to accept the changes requested and seconded by Mr. Fairfax, and the motion was passed.

Agenda Item #9: NCSBE Training Conference Review

- The board discussed the conference and the effectiveness of having these conferences. Mr. Meekins made a motion to send an invitation to Brenden Jones and Senator Rabon to discuss Senate Bill 749 with the director and 2 board members. Mr. Fairfax seconded and the motion was unanimous.

Agenda Item #10: County Fair- Booth

- Ms. Collins informed the board that she reached out to the county fair staff about getting a booth. All booths have been rented but they would put us on the waiting list. The booth rental fee is \$150. Mrs. Thompson made a motion to accept the booth, if one becomes available. Mr. Meekins seconded and the motion was passed.

Agenda Item # 11: Directors Report

- Ms. Collins gave the board members a copy of the removed 236 voters from the database during the period of July 18, 2023 to August 21, 2023.
- Ms. Collins discussed that she thought that she would need to do a temporary transfer of precincts for the municipal election. The issue was due to geocodes in the database where addresses listed did not have a house on the property. With updates made in geocode, the county will not need to transfer precincts.
- Ms. Collins discussed the maintenance issue with the ceiling in the classroom. The air conditioner on second floor is leaking and causing the ceil to fall. The county is currently working on it to resolve the issue.
- Ms. Collins discussed an anonymous letter that was sent to the Board of Elections to Mrs. Thompson complaining about a council member of Sandyfield. Ms. Collins reached out to Mr. Paul Cox, general council at the State Board of Elections and he informed her that it appears to be *either* the subject of a **candidate challenge** or a **voter challenge** but it is not filed as required by law. So the Columbus County Board cannot act on a voter challenge or a candidate challenge as an anonymous tip.

Agenda Item #12: Selection of Poll Workers

- Mr. Thurman (D)and Mr. Hinson(R) gave their recommendations of chief judges and judges for the precincts for the 2-year term. Then the board reviewed and entered the republican and democratic judges for each precinct. Mr. Meekins made a motion to accept the republican and democratic Judges and Mr. Fairfax seconded and the motion was passed.

Agenda Item #13: Adjourn

With all business having been conducted, Mr. Register called for the meeting to be adjourn at 7:02 p.m.