Board of Voter Registration & Elections of Richland County

Zoom Meeting

August 11, 2022

5:00 P.M.

Call to Order & Moment of Meditation

Mrs. Anjanette President called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. on August 11, 2022. She then asked for a Moment of Meditation.

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. President moved to approve today’s Agenda. It was moved and properly seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. President asked for a motion accept the minutes from the July 14, 2022 meeting. The minutes for July 28 were not available. It was moved and properly seconded. The vote was unanimous.

**Deputy Director Report-** Mr. Terry Graham- Poll Workers Pay has been the most pressing issue. Mrs. Rebecca Brown returned to train current precinct employees and to make sure the Poll workers’ pay was processed in the absence of the Precinct Coordinator. Mrs. Brown submitted missing information to HR and made sure people were paid the proper amount. Mr. Graham and the precinct division answered phones to keep poll workers abreast of matters.

Polling locations are being secured. Mr. Graham and Ms. Frye plan to visit locations to avoid combination. Open Enrollment will begin to recruit poll workers. Mr. Graham remains optimistic. Mrs. Washington and Mrs. President asked questions in reference to Mr. Graham’s report, such as polling locations, workers and the budget in regards to increase pay. Mrs. Taylor asked what caused the delay in pay. Mr. Graham stated it was a personnel issue and the fact that we did not have a back up to process payroll. Mrs. Brown is handling that. Mr. Dunn asked how many workers have and have not been paid. Mr. Graham stated 803 as of June 14, June 28 563 were paid. Approximately 30 workers had not been paid correctly. Mr. Dunn asked if the early voting sites had been turned into, the SEC. Mr. Graham stated they were turned in. Mrs. Taylor asked how early voting center locations were chosen. Mr. Graham stated the same locations as before would be used, and that the budget and amount of staff in the office would be affected if another were added.

**Voter Registration – Ms. Elaine Pilot**

Voter Registration is processing applications as they come in. Not many are coming into the office to register at this time. VR is also helping with Candidate Filing.

Election Systems – Ms. Christina Frye

For the past two weeks, each voting machine have been examined. Thirteen machines were sent to Printelect to get replacement batteries. Some DS200s were damaged, but there are enough DS200s to use for the next election, if those machines are not repaired in time. Mrs. President asked if the broken machines would be repaired in time. Some will be fixed in the warehouse. An extra 65 would be available for early voting. There will be backup BMDs if needed. Mrs. Washington asked about the transport of machines to be repaired. Ms. Frye stated she and Mr. Graham would discuss the options of shipping or taking them to NC. Mrs. Washington stated during a recent training some counties could work together with transport to deliver machines to be repaired. Mrs. President asked if we were responsible for shipping costs. Mr. Graham stated the repairs are taken care of via a service contract.

Ms. Frye stated that PLTs should be included in decisions made for poll workers. She discussed the amount of PLTs who have not been paid, were not paid correctly, and those who decided not to work with Elections again. She has a plan in place to secure PLTs to replace the ones who will no longer be working.

Absentee Services – Ms. Sheron Harris

Candidate filing began August 1, 2022 at noon. Richland One had four filed. Richland 2 had ten filed. Lexington Five has three so far. Candidate filing ends on August 15, 2022 at noon. There were 1570 absentee applications mailed in.

Mrs. President asked about the amount of early voting locations in certain areas. Ms. Harris stated the challenges with securing locations were due to availability.

Precinct – Mr. Graham stated he presented this Division’s status because they were the ones with the most issues. Mrs. Brown is working tirelessly to figure out how the issues happened and is working on a plan to fix the issues. HR needs paperwork to process before Payroll can process payment. Some poll workers were not paid, some were not paid enough and some was not paid for overtime. Mrs. President asked for the window in which poll workers are paid. Mrs. Brown stated it is typically a month to be paid for a primary and runoff since they are seen as one election. She also described various scenarios that could cause delays in payment. General Elections are usually paid in eighteen days. July 15, 2022 or sooner would be when workers are paid. The main issue was many workers were not entered into the voter registration system. Once information is entered, the process moves quickly. Precinct staff would enter workers and Mrs. Brown would process Absentee, PLT and failsafe workers. After all is complete, all is turned in to payroll. Poll workers are paid a flat fee. Workers take the Oath and sign pay vouchers at the same time. They sign out at the end of the day.

Public and Board Comments

No Public comments were made. Mrs. Taylor wanted to personally thank Mrs. Brown for stepping in to fix this issue. Mrs. Taylor wanted to know how long it would take to get workers paid. Mrs. Brown stated as soon as paperwork makes it through HR, workers should be paid in approximately a week. Payroll and HR are working diligently to get this done. Mrs. Washington thanked Mr. Graham and staff for following through with taking care of this pay process.

Next Scheduled Meeting

September 8, 2022 at 5:00p.m.

Adjournment

Mrs. President asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was moved and properly seconded. Meeting adjourned.