Amelia County Electoral Board Minutes - November 30, 2021

ATTENDEES: Mary Alice Williams, Chair

Brenda Johnson, Secretary

Mamie Barley, Vice Chair

Deborah Hathorn, Director of Elections

Lauren Whittington, ACDC Chair

The Electoral Board of Amelia County met on Tuesday, November 30, 2021 in the open space behind the Registrar's office. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Williams at 10:09 A.M. Minutes of the November 3rd and November 5th meetings were approved as presented.

The written agenda was approved as presented. We reviewed the FY 22 budget and expenses are within budget. The FY 23 budget was approved and will be presented to the Director of Finance for inclusion in the county's budget.

Questions were raised regarding the List of Officers of Elections (OOE) and party affiliation at the previous meeting. We will engage the party chairs and update the list of Officers of Election. We will purge the list, if necessary, and review the expiration terms for current OOEs. Hathorn will explore the possibility of using OOEs to work spilt shifts on Election Day to increase the number of individuals interested in working the election. The Master List will be sent to the party chairs 10 days prior to February 1, 2022; no later than January 21, 2022. The list needs to be posted on the website prior to March 1, 2022. Changes will be made, if necessary.

Chair Williams will write to the Judge Teefy regarding relocation of Precinct # 4 (Courthouse). Due to possible redistricting changes, it would be prudent to wait for any possible precinct changes to be announced before we decide to move to a new location.

Hathorn made us aware that the county is having problems with the new website. As a result, the Electoral Board portal is unavailable. She is working the county staff and Chair Williams will speak with the county administrator to address the issue, and will keep us apprised of their efforts. Posting of information on the website is critical to our compliance requirements.

The need to fill the part time vacancy is not critical at the present time. Early next year, Hathorn will have time to devote to recruiting, hiring and training a new person. Currently, she is using OOEs to fill in for Laura, cover the office when she is out or need extra help. Hathorn will identify up to three (3) candidates to discuss for hire with the Electoral Board at the February meeting.

Chair Williams term on the Board is set to expire December 31, 2021. We are optimistic that she will be reappointed for another three-year term to expire on December 31, 2024.

Hathorn will be out of the office the week of December 20-23. The office will be closed on Friday. December 24th for the Christmas holiday. Laura had a fall at work and injured her shoulder. Workers' Comp claim was appropriately filed and we expect she will be out of work for the remainder of the year. Well wishes for her recovery and flowers will be delivered by Chairman Williams.

During the public comment period, Laura Whittington shared her thoughts on OOEs and the lack of information on the website. She asked what the current pay was for OOEs (\$95) and suggested that if we increased the pay, maybe more people would "volunteer". We informed her that most of the OOEs do not work the election for the money. She agreed that split shifts were a good idea. She stated that we might see re-districting lines by the end of 2021, but then we could see possible legal challenges.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 10:-00 A.M.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:33 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda H. Johnson, Secretary