

The Charlotte County Electoral Board met Thursday May 3rd at the County Administration Building

Present; Lawrence Clark-Chairman, Warren Browning – Vice Chairman, Glenwood Foster -Secretary, Rebecca Daly – Chairperson of the Democratic Party, Kay Pierantoni -member of Board of Supervisors, Aubrey Fane, Peery Wells, Janice Wells, Thelma Jones, Judy Jones, Mary Mosley, Roscoe Eubanks, Hillary McCargo, Kurtis Jones

>Meeting was called to order

>Prayer by Mr. Clark

>Pledge of Allegiance

>Minutes – Approval of minutes delayed until next meeting

>1st Public Comment period:

-William McCargo- had a question for the Secretary about the last meeting.

>Registrars report;

>The Interim Registrar said he had received information from Mr. Witt about the purchase of electronic poll books. That Mr. Witt intended to ask the Board of Supervisors to purchase the entire amount of poll books we would need, instead of ½ this fiscal year and the other ½ next fiscal year. He concluded that he needed to know how many the board wished to purchase. The board discussed how many poll books the Supervisors had approved to be purchased. The Electoral Board asked for clarification from Mr. Witt as to how many were approved to be purchased by the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Witt was not available.

>Chairman decided to postpone the vote until more information was available.

>Financial report;

>No major expenditures for month of April.

>May - cost of printing ballots, L&A testing on voting machines and office supplies. Other than that no major expenses.

>June – Officers of Election pay for June primary

>Grant – Mr. Clark said 3,000.00 was remaining in the Civic and Tech life grant and has to be spent by June 30th.

>Old Business;

-Discussion about Registrars position and motions made at August 13th meeting when Eric Goode was appointed Interim Registrar until June 30th 2021. Motions made do not correspond with code and guidance had been sought from the County Attorney on what needed to be done. Discussion about whether or not the County Attorney would be available to assist. Mr. Clark said he had checked and that the County Attorney could not assist. Mr. Foster said he had contacted a Board of Supervisors member about getting assistance from the County Attorney. He was told he had to go through the County Administrator, and that he had done that and was waiting for his response. Mr. Clark said he had contacted the Department of Elections also. Discussion about meeting in August when motions were made. Mr. Foster reminded Mr. Clark that a representative of Department of Elections had called in during the meeting and advised the board on what to do.

> Discussion about evaluation meeting that was supposed to have taken place May 3rd and why the Secretary and Vice Chairman didn't want to have it at the Registrars office. There was contention about where the meeting was to be held. The Secretary had posted on the County website that the meeting would be at the County Administration building. The Chairman called the Secretary the morning of the meeting demanding the meeting be at the Registrars office. Secretary told Chairman that early voting was going on at Registrars office and there wasn't a suitable place to meet. The Chairman said the back room had been reserved from Social Services. When the Secretary arrived the Registrar informed him that Social Services was using the room and the meeting would be in his private office. Secretary and Vice Chairmen felt that was not a proper place to have the meeting. Kurtis Jones was present as a visitor and he felt the Registrars private office was not a suitable place to have meeting.

>Mr. Clark accused Mr. Foster of trying to belittle him and the registrar and ask Mr. Foster "what is the difference between me and Eric and you?"

>Mr. Foster replied "I don't know what is it? How old are you?"

>Mr. Clark said "I say skin color."

>Mr. Foster replied "you accuse me of being racist?"

>Mr. Clark made the motion that "due to the information received from Ashley Cole that we correct the term Interim Registrar and Eric be Registrar be added to his name and be his appointment until 2023 unless he does not do the job as he was supposed to."

>There was no second to the motion

>Mr. Clark reported on the budget meeting the Board Supervisors held 2/27/21 that he had attended.

>Mr. Browning commented about the cost of election comparison that Mr. Witt had given the board members . The comparison has shown that Charlotte County elections are proportionally considerably more expensive than surrounding counties . Mr. Clark suggested the board visit those Counties to see what they are doing differently.

>Kurtis Jones asked if we legislatively had to use Officers of election working early voting.

>Registrar replied yes

>Mrs. Pierantoni explained the budget issues the Registrar and Electoral Board have and informed them that the budget is over 4,600.00 short already and there was no money to pay May and June salaries. She pointed out that assistants had been budgeted to work 20 hours a week, but had somehow been increased to 29 hours a week. She said the hazard pay the Registrar and Electoral Board gave themselves could have been used for some of the things we now have a shortfall on.

>Board discussed approval of Officers of Election for the June primary

>Notification of meetings- two members of a three member board constitute a quorum when they are together. If two members are at the same place at the same time NO ELECTORAL BUSINESS CAN BE DISCUSSED.

>Training for Officers of Election – June 1st through June 3rd

>Notification to party chair about assignments of Officers of Election – Democratic Party chair has not received list of officers of election intended to be used in primary.

>Discussion about what improvements needs to be done to make Southall church to make it a suitable polling place again.

>Mr Foster brought up that in the training he had attended in April it was suggested that to make sure polling places meet HAVA requirements, the board should ask the county building inspector to visit the polling places to make sure they are in compliance. It would also relieve the Electoral Board of liability should an incident occur.

>Setting up polling places – discussion about when to setup polling places and paint campaign boundary lines.

>Calendar Reminders:

-June 5th -last day for early voting

-June 8th – last day for candidate filing

>2nd Public Comment:

-Mr. Fane commented

-Mr. McCargo commented

>Discussion about the evaluation – Chairman explained how it shouldn't be done. May12th set as date for evaluation.

>Secretary tried to explain why the minutes are now and have been in the past late. Writing minutes

Requires more time than is available

>Motion to adjourn

_____Lawrence Clark/ chairman

_____Warren Browning/ Vice Chairman

_____Glenwood Foster/Secretary