

**CAMDEN COUNTY, GEORGIA
BOARD OF ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 14, 2020, 3:00 PM**

Present via Teleconference: Chair Joseph Michaels; Vice-Chair Dr. Jannett Bradford; Kyle Rapp; James Corbett; Barbara Hahn; Elections Supervisor Shannon Nettles; Assistant Elections Supervisor Deborah Felix; and County Clerk Katie Bishop.

A. Call to Order

Chair Joseph Michaels called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

County Clerk Katie Bishop noted that all members were present.

B. Invocation

Kyle Rapp delivered the invocation.

C. Agenda Amendments

No amendments to the agenda were offered during this time.

D. Adoption of Agenda

James Corbett made a motion, seconded by Kyle Rapp to adopt the agenda as presented.

The motion carried unanimously.

E. Approval of Minutes

Barbara Hahn made a motion, seconded by Kyle Rapp to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2020 regular meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

F. Financial Report

Election Supervisor Shannon Nettles gave an overview of the current Financial Report ending February 29, 2020, and announced that each Board Member should have a copy of the Office of Elections and Registration financial report in their agenda packet for review.

G. Public Comments

Tonya Glazebrook, St. Marys

Ms. Glazebrook stated that it may be your intent to discuss this subject under H 4, business today, but if not I'd like to ask that you do so. The subject is the matter of emphasizing, pushing or otherwise seriously considering moving towards a mail in ballot for the general election by promoting absentee ballots for the June election. I'm sure you have all read many of the recent well written essays on the subject in respected publications like the Atlantic Monthly, the New York Times, and the Wall Street Journal. Contrary to popular tweets, this is not a political party issue. I have been an Independent for more than 40 years and have no allegiance to either party. One only needs to look at the chaos in the Wisconsin primary during a pandemic to understand that there must be a better way of voting. As you know, five states already conduct their entire election by mail in ballots: Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Utah and Washington. Oregon has been the bell weather state in testing and bringing the concept to the marketplace because they have been doing so since the year 2000. That's 20 years of history and the state moved through the process with both Republican and Democrat leadership. Other states that have shown an increasing voter turnout by using mail in ballots are California, Florida and Arizona. And, of course, the military has been using mail in voting for troops overseas for decades. Ohio, with a Republic Governor and legislative majority, plans an all mail in election for their primary later this month. New Hampshire's Republic Governor is planning such a move for the November election and the Iowa Republican Secretary of State is urging adoption of a similar plan. I mention the Republican leadership because President Trump has openly stated he is opposed to it because "for whatever reasons Republicans do not do well in them". And that is a direct quote. This is not about party. It is about protecting the voter's right to vote and the pandemic suggests protection now takes on an additional meaning. The Georgia Secretary of State has opened the door with the decision to mail absentee applications. It will now take strong, pro-active and aggressive leadership from local Election Boards to move forward. I urge Camden to be a leader in this area. On one other agenda item, as you discuss the budget proposal for the upcoming cycle, I would urge you to look again at

states like Colorado and Oregon who have actually found it cost effective to move to another model of elections. Thank you.

Mary Beckham, St. Marys

Ms. Beckham stated that she echoes Mrs. Glazebrook' s comments and knows that the Elections Supervisor is making provisions for the dire situation we are all in.

H. New Business

1. New Polling Location for North St. Marys, Precinct 10- St. Marys Church*

Barbara Hahn made a motion, seconded by James Corbett to approve the new polling location for North St. Marys, Precinct 10 to the St. Marys Church.

The motion carried unanimously.

2. Discuss FY2021 Budget Proposal

After discussion by the Board regarding the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Proposal, no official action was taken at this time.

No action taken.

3. Poll Worker Training w/COVID 19

After discussion by the Board regarding conducting Poll Worker Training under the current conditions of the COVID19 pandemic, no official action was taken at this time.

No action taken.

4. June 9, 2020 PPP and/or General Primary (GP)

After discussion by the Board regarding the June 9, 2020 Presidential Preference Primary and/or the General Primary, no official action was taken at this time.

No action taken.

I. Old Business

No old business was presented during this time.

J. Other Business

No other business was presented during this time.

L. Additional Public Comments

Tom Canning, St. Marys

Mr. Canning asked when the absentee ballots are received, returned by mail, will they be returned to a vendor or the county directly. If the ballot is mailed to the county, does the county have sufficient equipment to deal with the load. He urged the Board to consider a future Work Session to discuss the decision to transfer to absentee ballots.

Mary Beckman, St. Marys

Ms. Beckman stated that Mrs. Nettles mentioned a drop box and asked where that is located so she can distribute that information to others.

K. Adjournment

Kyle Rapp made a motion, seconded by James Corbett to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 PM.

By: _____
Joseph Michaels, Chair

Attest: _____
Shannon Nettles, Elections Supervisor