

THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OF CHATHAM COUNTY

MINUTES

February 12, 2023

In-Person Meeting | 1117 Eisenhower Drive, Suite F | Multipurpose room

- BOARD MEMBERS:** Thomas J. Mahoney - Chairman
Marianne Heimes – Vice Chair
James Hall
Trish Brown
Glynda Jones
- STAFF:** Billy Wooten, Director
Shanta Scarboro, Deputy Director
- CALL TO ORDER:** **Tom Mahoney** called the meeting to order at 3:30 P.M. He gave an Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- CHAIR ADDRESS:** **Mr. Mahoney** welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed the public that their comments would be heard at the end of the business portion of the meeting. He briefly mentioned that election prep was well underway for the Presidential Preference Primary, which is the staff's focus at this time.
- MINUTES:** **January 2024**
Motion by Mrs. Brown, seconded by Ms. Heimes, that the Minutes of the October meeting be approved. **Mrs. Brown** requested an amendment – change the use of the word “voted” to “motioned” in the phrase “voted to adjourn”. The amendment was accepted and noted in the official minutes by **Mr. Mahoney**. **The Minutes were unanimously approved.**
- FINANCIAL REPORT:** **January 2024**
Mr. Wooten presented the January Financial Report for information. He stated that we will likely spend slightly past our budget, based on the upcoming elections within this fiscal year. We have a new budget analyst who is still in training and learning to attribute spending to the correct department. As a result, there are several line items that she is working to reattribute to the Sheriff's Office. These will be reflected in the next financial report.
- SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:** **Mr. Wooten** spoke about the Presidential Preference Primary (PPP) on March 12, 2024. The presidential race is the only item on the ballot for both the Republican and Democrat ballots. We do not anticipate lines or delays since voters will be able to get through this ballot quickly. The May ballot will be much longer because it includes State and County races as well.
We are currently training workers and about 400 clerks have already been trained. Manager training starts soon. We are also preparing for qualification for the May General Election, which will happen during the first week of March. We will qualify candidates for non-partisan positions; the parties will qualify partisan candidates. Staff are still working toward moving poll workers into direct deposit payment, which will save time and money in the long run.
Staff participated in the Georgia Day Expo on February 9. The Elections booth was about the history of voting in the US and included voting by marble. **Mr. Wooten** thanked staff for their involvement.
Earlier this month on a Saturday evening an unlicensed teen was practicing driving and parking with her mother and rammed into our building. She hit the accelerator instead of the brake and crashed through a window. No one was injured, but the building has a great deal of damage. The driver accepted responsibility for the accident, and we were fortunate that no press was called. The room is not usable, but no election equipment

was lost. One monitor, one keyboard, and one external battery were destroyed and will be claimed on insurance. All equipment has been removed from the room. We are working with Facilities and Maintenance as well as Risk Management to repair the damage. The main office is secure, and plywood has been added over the hole in the window. A lock has been installed on the outside of the room's door to ensure that if someone pries the plywood off the building, they will not be able to enter the main office. These are all temporary fixes – a repair estimate will take a couple of months. **Mr. Wooten** reminded the Board that they will not meet on the normal meeting day in March, as it would be the day before the PPP. Instead, they will meet on March 18 at 3:30 PM and will also certify the election in the regular meeting. **Ms. Heimes** thanked Billy for being available after the accident and taking care of it so quickly. She asked if our budget would be used for repairs and **Mr. Wooten** said that it would be claimed on insurance. **Mrs. Brown** asked if any election data was compromised, and **Mr. Wooten** replied that it was not.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Precinct 8-02 – Polling Location Change

Mr. Mahoney asked for the background of why this polling location was being changed. **Mr. Wooten** said that the Hellenic Center has been a poll for many years, but their schedule conflicts have made coordination increasingly difficult; they have decided not to move forward as a poll. **Mr. Wooten** is a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church and is on their Board. Staff contacted them and they are happy to host the poll. They are near the Hellenic Center, very active in the local community, and have a large fellowship hall. They are ADA accessible and have good on-street parking and a lot. The Hellenic Center did not have parking and was more difficult to access on Anderson Street, which is one way. The only parking available was at their associated church, which is across the street. The poll manager frequently had to stop and direct traffic to allow people to cross to and from the poll. Bull Street Library was also considered, and they were willing to host, but their parking situation is poor. They hosted the poll before it was moved to the Hellenic Center due to access problems. Staff recommends moving precinct 8-02's poll to St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Mr. Mahoney called for a motion. **Ms. Jones** motioned to accept St. Paul's Episcopal Church as the new poll for precinct 8-02, seconded by **Ms. Heimes**. **Mr. Hall** asked if Bull Street Baptist Church was considered. **Mr. Wooten** stated that it was, but the fellowship hall is in the basement with access via stairs or elevator and St. Paul's is ground level, which made them a better choice. **Mr. Hall** agreed St. Paul's would be more conducive to our needs. **Mr. Mahoney** asked what the rate of pay would be; **Mr. Wooten** responded it would be the same as the Hellenic Center's. **Mr. Mahoney called for the vote, which was unanimous in favor of the motion.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Mahoney reviewed conduct requirements for public comments.

Public comment sessions began at 3:55.

ADJOURNMENT:

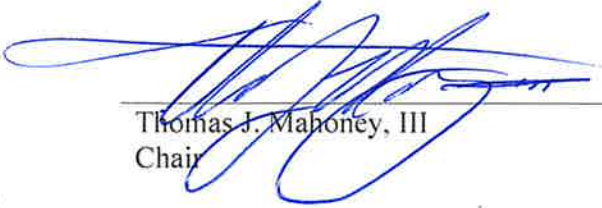
Ms. Heimes motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by **Mrs. Brown**. The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:



Billy Wooten
Supervisor, Secretary to the Board

3/18/24
Date Approved



Thomas J. Mahoney, III
Chair


Notary Signature

3/18/24
Date Notarized

