COBB COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION
AUGUST 9, 2021
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

100 Cherokee Street
3:00 p.m.

Board Members Present         Board Members Absent
Tori Silas                     Pat Gartland
Jessica Brooks                 Jennifer Mosbacher
Steve Bruning                  
Pat Gartland                   

Others Present: Gregg Litchfield, Janine Eveler, Beau Gunn, Brenda Jemison and Crista Watson.

Chairperson Silas called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- July 19, 2021

Mr. Gartland made a motion to approve. Mr. Bruning SECONDED. APPROVED 5/0.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Registration Manager Beau Gunn addressed the Board regarding changes to the following precinct boundaries, due to annexations and de-annexations: Acworth 1B, Acworth 1C, Austell 1A, Kennesaw 2A, Marietta 3B, Marietta 4B, Marietta 6B, Powder Springs 3A, and Smyrna 3A and requested the Board send to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

Rex Harper spoke during Public Hearing addressing his concerns regarding commercial property being used for voting.

Pat Gartland made a motion to recommend approval of the proposed precinct boundaries related to annexations and de-annexations. Mr. Bruning SECONDED. APPROVED 5/0.

Elections Manager Brenda Jemison recommended that the Board of Elections approve a change to the polling location for precinct Kennesaw 1A from Influencers Church Kennesaw, 1455 Ben King
Mr. Gartland made a motion to APPROVE. Mr. Bruning SECONDED. APPROVED 5/0.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

Registration Manager Beau Gunn provided the Board with a review of the current advance voting plan for the November 2, 2021 General/Special Election including the publishing deadline of September 27, 2021. Mr. Gunn explained early voting will be held at the main elections office as well as the Northeast and Southeast areas of Cobb County. Advance voting will be held Monday through Friday 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. and 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. on Saturday October 16th and 23rd. The Department will also be conducting the election and early voting for the cities of Acworth, Austell, Kennesaw, and Powder Springs. The Board requested a communication plan in writing prior to approving at the next meeting.

Mr. Gunn indicated that our sixteen absentee ballot drop boxes can no longer be placed outside county facilities and available 24 hours per day. There is now one required drop box inside the Main Elections Office that is available during office hours. Voters can also return voted ballots by hand-delivering to any advance voting location while voting is being conducted.

In addition, Mr. Gunn also discussed a proposed pilot program to station absentee ballot clerks at the East Cobb, Powder Springs, and West Cobb libraries during the week before the election and on the last Saturday, Monday and on Election Day. This will help voters deliver ballots after advance voting ends.

The Elections Director reviewed plans for the upcoming qualifying of municipal candidates for the Cities of Acworth, Austell, Kennesaw, Marietta, and Powder Springs. Director Eveler also detailed the absentee ballot regulations, explaining the first day they may be accepted is August 16, 2021. She explained the application period runs through October 11, 2021, which is 22 days prior to the election in accordance with SB202.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Mr. Bruning encouraged the public to reach out to the board to voice their concerns regarding the Cooper 01 location change.

- Ms. Mosbacher stated she would like to consider the idea of holding work sessions to further discuss matters that will be voted on by the Board.

- Chairwoman Silas would like the Cooper 01 proposal to be revisited at the next Board Meeting.
• Chairwoman Silas asked Director Eveler who would be covering the cost for the Elections and Registration Department to conduct the elections for the Cities of Acworth, Austell, Kennesaw, Marietta, and Powder Springs. Director Eveler explained that each city is invoiced for the cost and payment is remitted to the Department.

• Chairwoman Silas asked Director Eveler if the decision regarding Sewell Mill 03, voted on during the previous Board Meeting, was effective due to the variation in what was published versus what was approved. Director Eveler explained the requirements regarding providing notice. She detailed that the notice is to inform voters that a potential change will be discussed, and the Board will have final approval. Attorney Litchfield explained the Board decision can vary from what was originally published by the Department to provide notice.

Chairwoman Silas set the next Board Meeting:
• August 25, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. Special Called Meeting
• September 13, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

At 3:59 p.m. Mr. Bruning moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Gartland SECONDED. The Chairwoman declared the meeting adjourned.