

Whitfield County Board of Elections & Registration Meeting Minutes

July 14, 2022

CALL TO ORDER:

Sparky Kelehear called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Members Present:

Sparky Kelehear
Rob Cowan
Carol Byers

Staff Present:

Mary Hammontree
Heath Frazier
Gina Rogers
Rhonda Franks

Special Guest:

Debbie Peppers
John Dashler
Sandra Pride
Dianne Dashler
Virgelia Meek
Sue Schumacher
Stacy Doran
Kacey Arnett
Michelle Jones
Rickie Allen
Russ Delozier
Tom Wade

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Carol Byers made a motion to approve. Rob Cowan seconded.

OLD BUSINESS:

Meeting planned with Brian Chastain to discuss relocation of Antioch precinct to Riverbend Park.

Remodeling is complete, and everything in storage has been brought back to the courthouse.

NEW BUSINESS:

Look Ahead America identified 6 voters who were registered at business addresses. On review, we found that one of these voters did have a residential address and we have corrected it in our system. The others have been contacted to update their registration info with their home addresses.

DDS, Online, and Mail Post applications for the May 24 primary and runoff have been entered. There were approximately 1,000, including new registrations and changes.

Our preliminary budget is due by July 27, and will include a provision for the possible relocation of Westside precinct to a mobile unit set up at Miracle Field.

Important dates and deadlines for the November election have been sent to the Daily Citizen, and will be posted on social media. Posters will be printed for display in prominent public places such as the Senior Center and the Mack Gaston Center.

PUBLIC HEARING:

None

DISCUSSION: See page 3

Stacey Doran spoke and argued that Dominion voting machines were illegal and that the Board of Elections had the authority to remove them and use paper ballots counted by hand exclusively.

Debbie Peppers spoke in favor of machines, arguing that a hand-count was subject to human error.

John Dashler spoke and elaborated on Stacey Doran's arguments, claiming that Dominion machines were vulnerable to hacking, and that a hypothetical algorithm that flipped votes from one candidate to another couldn't be detected.

Sparky Kelehear and Mary Hammontree both pointed out that the 2020 Presidential Election was counted three times, once by hand, and the totals matched. Sparky concluded by saying that there was no evidence of the voting machines being tampered with in Whitfield County. Mary, Carol Byers, and Rob Cowan concurred.

CLOSED SESSION:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

- 1. The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 A.M. by Stephen Kelehear
Chairman,**
- 2. 2nd by Carol Byers**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Heath Frazier

Stephen Kelehear, Chairman

Mary Hammontree, Registrar

Robert Cowan, Vice-Chairman

Carol Byers, Member