PUTNAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
COURTHOUSE – BER CONFERENCE ROOM, SUITE 217
July 2, 2013
5:00 PM

I. Call to order: 5:00 PM.
II. Roll Call
   a) Mr. Frank Ford: present
   b) Mr. Kelvin Irvin: present
   c) Ms. Annie Parker, Vice-Chairperson: absent
   d) Mr. Emory Walden: present
   e) Ms. Janet Pearson, Chairperson: present
   f) Mr. Gary Sanders, Supervisor of Elections and Registration: present
III. Public Comments
   a) None.
IV. Approval of Agenda
   a) Mr. Ford moved to approve the agenda.
   b) Mr. Irvin seconded the motion.
   c) Vote: all in favor.
V. Recommended Consent Agenda
   a) Approval of Minutes – June 4, 2013
      i) Mr. Ford moved to approve the minutes as presented.
      ii) Mr. Walden seconded the motion.
      iii) Vote: all in favor.
VI. Discussion Items
   a) 2013 budget
      i) Mr. Sanders provided the Board an update on the 2013 budget, including year-to-date expenditures.
   b) Response from county attorney
      i) Mr. Sanders reviewed with the Board the responses from the county attorney regarding the election cycles of the State Court Judge and Solicitor-General, the Open Meetings Act, and the BER/attorney relationship.
   c) Update on the Voting Rights Act
      i) Mr. Sanders discussed with the Board the recent Supreme Court decision that found the coverage formula in Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act to be unconstitutional.
      ii) By consensus, the Board decided to seek a formal opinion from the county attorney concerning the impact of the Supreme Court's decision on the requirement to obtain Section 5 preclearance before implementing voting changes.
   d) Possible relocation of polling places
      i) Ms. Pearson discussed with the Board the need to evaluate the county's polling places and to identify possible alternatives.
      ii) Ms. Pearson reviewed with the Board the known issues with each of the current polling places.
      iii) Ms. Pearson asked that each Board member develop a list of potential polling place locations, if possible, over the next few months.
      iv) Mr. Ford suggested asking each Commissioner to identify possible polling place locations within his or her own district.
VII. Action Items
   a) Voter registration challenge hearings

i) Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §21-2-228, a hearing was held by the Board to determine the eligibility of the individuals named below to remain on the electors list. Prior legal notice for said hearing has been provided to each individual.
(1) Lontavious Nelson – Reg. No. 7393139
ii) Based on the evidence presented by Mr. Sanders, Mr. Ford moved to remove the name of said voter from the electors list.
iii) Mr. Irvin seconded the motion.
iv) Vote: all in favor.

b) Review of and possible action regarding an order to change the election cycles of the State Court Judge and Solicitor-General
i) Mr. Sanders presented to the Board a proposed order regarding the election cycles of the State Court Judge and Solicitor-General.
ii) Mr. Ford moved to modify the language of the order and to consider the amended version at the next meeting.
iii) Mr. Irvin seconded the motion.
iv) Vote: all in favor.

c) Review of and possible action regarding the 2014 budget request
i) Mr. Sanders reviewed with the Board the 2014 budget request and reminded the Board that the budget is due by Friday, July 5.
ii) Mr. Ford moved to enter executive session to discuss employee compensation.
iii) Mr. Irvin seconded the motion.
iv) Vote: all in favor.
v) The Board entered executive session pursuant to O.C.G.A. §50-14-4 at 6:40 PM.
vi) Mr. Ford moved to come out of executive session.
vii) Mr. Irvin seconded the motion.
viii) Vote: all in favor.
ix) The regular meeting reconvened at 6:40 PM.
(1) Action resulting from executive session
(i) Mr. Ford moved to set the Supervisor's salary at $65,636 for the 2014 budget request.
(ii) Mr. Walden seconded the motion.
(iii) Vote: all in favor.

VIII. Business and Information from Board Members and Staff
a) Mr. Ford:
i) Discussed the possibility of establishing educational training expectations for new Board members.
b) Mr. Irvin: None.
c) Ms. Parker: None.
d) Mr. Walden: None.
e) Ms. Pearson:
i) Reminded the Board that the next meeting will be held on August 6 at 5:00 PM.
f) Mr. Sanders:
i) Informed the Board that the redistricting module should be available on July 8.
ii) Informed the Board that the OS units have been returned from ES&S and that three TS units will be sent off for repair.

IX. Adjournment – 7:03 PM.
a) Mr. Ford moved to adjourn.
b) Mr. Irvin seconded the motion.
c) Vote: all in favor.

ATTEST:

Gary Sanders
Supervisor of Elections & Registration

Janet C. Pearson
Chairperson