

**Minutes of the Richland County Board of Elections and Voter Registration**  
**Wednesday, March 11, 2015**  
**4:00pm, County Council Chambers**

**Board Members in Attendance**

Ms. Marjorie Johnson, Chair  
Ms. Adell Adams, Vice-Chair  
Ms. Sylvia Holley  
Mr. E. Peter Kennedy

**Staff in Attendance**

Mr. Samuel Selph, Director  
Ms. Lillian McBride, Deputy Director of Elections & Voter Registration  
Ms. Chelle Epps, Manager of Voter Registration  
Ms. Cheryl Goodwin, Election Systems Coordinator  
Ms. Turquoise Hayes, Absentee Representative  
Ms. Sheron Harris, Absentee Coordinator  
Ms. Yonita Simmons, Outreach Coordinator

**Others in Attendance**

Media

**Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order at 4:09 p.m. It was noted that a quorum was present to allow the meeting to proceed and that the meeting had been properly posted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act requirements.

**Adoption of Agenda**

- A motion was made to adopt the meeting's agenda.

**Approval of Board Meeting Minutes**

- The Board Members reviewed the minutes from February 11, 2015. A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes. Seconded.

**Board Chair Comments**

- Department Relocation
- Ms. Johnson informed the Board of the meeting with Councilman Chair Torrey Rush and Councilman Vice-Chair Greg Pearce on the Consolidation & Relocation of the office. She stated that their comments were that the county has one pot of money and that it has to be divided between different departments. She stated that it appears that DSS was top priority with the county at this time. Councilman Pearce advised the Board to contact the Richland County Delegation to discuss funding the project.

**SCARE Conference**

- Ms. Johnson commented on how informative the SCARE conference was and that she would like to have staff attend the conference next year.

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**Allow Counties to Maintain Permanent Absentee Mailing List:**

Again most people who vote absentee are either elderly and/or disabled. Mostly the same individuals request an application for absentee ballots each year; we can be proactive and mail them an application. Additionally, just because a person gets/requests an application does not mean they automatically get a ballot; the application must be returned to the local election office requesting the ballot for one to be issued.

**Allow Local Counties' Offices to Start Opening Absentee Ballots on Monday Before Election:**

In the 2014 General Election, Richland County recorded more than eighteen-thousand (18,000) absentee ballots. In the 2012 General Election, there were more than forty-thousand (40,000) absentee ballots cast. It would benefit the larger counties immensely if the opening process could begin on the Monday before Election Day.

In addition, the director also shared with the Board the staff's current preparation status for the various upcoming elections later this year. Based upon notifications received, it appears that the Forest Acres municipal election will not take place if no write-in candidate signs up to run against the incumbent.

**Call for Executive Session to Discuss the Director's hiring**

- A motion was made to proceed into Executive Session to discuss
- A motion was made to come out of Executive Session at 5:23pm. Seconded. Approved 4-0.
- The session involved development of goals and objectives for the Director. There was no Motion or Vote resulting from this session.

**Public Comments & Questions**

**Adjournment**

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:29pm.

Recorded by: Mrs. Lillian McBride & Mr. Samuel Selph