



Pulaski County Election Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2020
5:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Evelyn D. Gomez
Joshua A. Price
Kristi M. Stahr

Staff Present:

Bryan Poe
Betty Green
Jodie Dildy

Visitors Present:

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Gomez. A quorum was present, with all commissioners present via Zoom. The staff was present for the meeting via Zoom.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Stahr.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Chair Gomez requested the minutes for June 9, 2020 be amended to reflect that Director Poe did not have the permission of the commissioners when he met with the Circuit County Clerk's office regarding the CARES Act Survey. Commissioner Stahr moved to accept the minutes as amended; seconded by Commissioner Price. Motion passed by voice vote.

Business

CARES Act Survey

Chair Gomez feels that the survey that was submitted by the Circuit County Clerk's office in May 2020, should be considered null and void because Director Poe did not have permission or the authority to meet with the Circuit Clerk's Office on behalf of the board of commissioners. Her suggestion was to reach out to the Secretary of State's office to request a new survey be submitted after a meeting is held with the

County Judge's office, the Circuit County Clerk's office, and the commissioners. Director Poe requested clarification regarding any discrepancies with the survey that was submitted. Chair Gomez told him that he was not being recognized as allowed to speak at that time. Commissioner Stahr stated that it was her understanding that the survey was already due and had been turned in. Commissioner Stahr did not see what could be gained by having a public meeting to discuss the survey and did not see it as being fiscally responsible to hold the meeting.

Commissioner Price agreed with Commissioner Stahr. He also requested clarification from Director Poe regarding the information that was provided for the survey in order the Circuit County Clerk's office to complete the survey. Director Poe stated data was provided regarding number of polling locations and the operational aspects for the November election. Commissioner Price requested clarification as to the response provided on question number seven of the survey which pertains to priorities for conducting the election. Director Poe stated the top priorities were determined by the Circuit County Clerk's office with input from the election commission staff. For clarification purposes, Director Poe stated that the staff was not speaking on behalf of the commissioners, but from an operational standpoint.

Chair Gomez next suggestion was for the commissioners to draft a letter to be sent to the Secretary of State, State Board of Election Commissioners, Circuit County Clerk, and the County Judge. The letter would serve as a formal notification that Director Poe does not have the authority to speak on behalf of the commissioners and any correspondence that pertains to the commissioners will be sent directly to them. Chair Gomez will draft the letter and send a copy to Commissioner Price and Commissioner Stahr for their input. Chair Gomez gave a deadline of June 15, 2020 by 8:00 a.m. for the responses to be provided.

Commissioner Stahr suggested that the Secretary of State Office be contacted to find out what their process for communicating information might be before the letter is sent out. She also suggested that the commissioners find out what the daily operations of the election commission staff are versus the responsibilities of the commissioners.

Director Poe suggested that Chair Gomez discuss whatever her disagreements are with the survey with the Secretary of State's office before the next steering committee meeting. Chair Gomez told Director Poe if he is contacted by anyone from the Secretary of State Office, that he is not to speak with them, and he does not have the authority to speak on behalf of the commissioners. He is to refer them to the commissioners.

Other Business

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

June 19, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. for the certification of election results for the June 9, 2020 Jacksonville Special Election. Discussion of information pertaining to CARES Act.

Meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.