

Members: Present—Rhinda Wilson, Henry Ficklin, Herb Spangler, Cassandra Powell, and Mike Kaplan, Chair.

New Business: None

Old Business:

1. Poll Manager Theresa Harris brought up the question of Poll Managers and workers not being paid “hazardous duty pay” she had thought has been promised earlier in the voting cycle, but had not received. William Nolan, Board Attorney, explained that by City government rules, hazardous duty pay wasn’t payable retroactively for elections held from the time of Covid restrictions until the grant allowed such payment. They had been paid \$250 for training they had undergone.

2. Henry Ficklin moved to increase the amount paid to churches that served as voting precincts be raised from \$70 to \$200. It passed by a vote of 3 to 2. Dissenters thought \$200 was too much.

3. Henry Fickling moved to pay \$75 each to the poll manager and up to two workers for setting up their precinct before each election. With the new voting machines, setting up has become a much bigger job due to the amount of equipment now used. Motion passed.

Other Business:

1. The nomination process for the appointment of the At-Large Board Member for the 2021-2023 term was discussed. The Board will have a called meeting next week to deal with the At-Large Member and hazardous duty pay.

2. Supervisor Jeanetta Watson listed current activities: budget requests, personnel assessment, update of BOE website, and backlog of open record requests. She also spoke to the time line for county redistricting and who is drawing the maps. Word is that the County may not get maps until January 2022 which is a very short time to adjust precincts and get cards out to registered voters before voting begins.

3. Mike Kaplan thanked Senator David Lucas for his impassioned speech on the floor of the Senate against voter suppression laws being sponsored by members of the State Legislature. The goal of the BOE is to have all eligible citizens be able to vote with a minimum of difficulty. Senator Lucas has stated that if these laws were passed, they would be taken to court. It was stated that US Senator Ossoff has asked the Attorney General to look at these Georgia voter suppression laws.

submitted:

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