

Monroe County Board of Elections

MINUTES

February 6, 2023

Attendance: Board Members: Sam Bennett, Linda Davis, Jim Zellner, and Rosalyn Harbuck. Mary Chambliss was excused (doctor's appointment).

Staff: Kaye Warren

Meeting was called to order and opened with prayer.

Sam Bennett was welcomed back to the Board. Harbuck explained that there had been a mistake in appointing Suzette Pennamon to the Board since Bennett had never officially resigned and has stated that he does wish to complete his current term which will end in June 2023. At that time the City of Culloden may reappoint Bennett or choose a new appointee.

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved as printed.

The financial report were reviewed and Warren offered some information about how some of the numbers are reached.

Staff Reports: Warren presented pictures of the new Poll Pad equipment that the state will be providing. She said that the new equipment will make changes in the procedures for Early Voting and should improve the flow of electors.

She also reported from a meeting Staff had attended in Valdosta. The purpose of the meeting was to stress the importance of preserving confidentiality of the voting process. Recent legal proceedings against an Elections Supervisor in South Georgia resulting from a lack of confidentiality were discussed by the attendees and representatives from the Secretary of State Office.

Warren also updated the Board about some of the elections issues before the current session of the General Assembly. The possibility of using Rank Choice Ballots to reduce the need for Run Off elections is one proposal. Several issues that the Secretary of State has included in its 2024 budget request would help reduce the counties cost of elections and help improve the voting process. One issue being addressed is a needed reduction the current requirement for 1 BMD per every 250 registered voters which is viewed by many as excessive.

Information concerning the upcoming November Municipal Election was provided for the Board.

There being no other business the Chair adjourned the meeting and thanked the members for attending.