

A meeting of the Board of Elections Commissioners of St. Louis County was held by video conference, Tuesday, September 29, 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic and subsequent executive order. Members of the public took the opportunity to attend the meeting by calling into a conference line.

Present at the meeting were:

Sharon Buchanan-McClure	Chair
Trudi McCollum Foushee	Secretary
Matthew Potter	Commissioner
Peggy Barnhart	Commissioner
Steve Garrett	Attorney
Rick Stream	Director
Eric Fey	Director
Christian Tolbert	Deputy Director
Julie Leicht	Deputy Director

Chair Buchanan-McClure called the meeting to order and a roll call was taken. A quorum was established.

Chair Buchanan-McClure announced that the August 18 open and closed meeting minutes would be postponed until the next meeting. She then asked if everyone had read the open and closed minutes from the September 1 meeting. Secretary Foushee made a motion that the minutes be approved and Commissioner Potter seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved. Chair Buchanan-McClure then asked if everyone had read the open and closed minutes from the September 15 meeting. Commissioner Barnhart made a motion that the minutes be approved and Secretary Foushee seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

Chair Buchanan-McClure asked if everyone had read the directors' reports. The Board and staff discussed poll worker staffing and polling places. Director Fey reported that about 130,000 absentee applications have been processed, with at least another 5,000-7,000 currently in process. We receive approximately 2,000 applications each day, and have hired more temporary employees as a result. So far, we've received roughly 20,000 ballots back, and have set up several tables outside for voters who choose to drop-off their absentee ballots. Deputy Director Tolbert reported our Public Information Coordinator, Nicholle Spencer, is working on informational videos that have been posted on our social media accounts, and will soon be posted to YouTube. The videos include tutorials of how to apply for a ballot, how to complete an affidavit, and how to register to vote.

Director Fey then discussed the grant the Board of Elections applied for and received in the amount of \$2,000,000 for election expenses. Staff has already completed two planning/brainstorming sessions on the most beneficial ways to spend this money. Without this grant, we certainly are at risk of running over our election budget considering the increasing number of temporary employees and overtime. We plan to use some of the funds to implement drop-off tables at the satellite locations, along with more staff at these locations. Commissioner

Potter requested that staff prepare a spreadsheet to show how these funds are being spent that the Board can track line by line.

Director Stream reported that he and Director Fey have been participating in virtual community events (via Zoom) and fielding media requests regarding the upcoming election. Commissioners asked Nicholle Spencer to provide Commissioners a list of these requests.

Status on Website

Director Fey reported that the website is yet to be fully restored. Our IT Manager has been working feverishly to develop a backup plan in the case the County never reaches full capacity before the election. We will need to have a website prepared for the election results on election night. We have a meeting tomorrow, September 30, with Amazon Web Services. The grant provides us with more options for a potential long-term website versus just a stop-gap for the election. The current County website provides the absentee application, voter registration information, the sample ballot/polling place look-up applications, but does not include things like archived election results.

Satellite Office Options

The Board expressed that October 22, the day the satellite offices open, seems incredibly close to the election. They asked staff to explore opportunities to open the satellite offices sooner, as we should make this option available as early as we can. Director Stream explained that we first utilized satellite locations in 2018 for just a week before the election, and it has since been expanded to ten days before. We generally look for government buildings with plenty of room and parking space. We must have a good working relationship with those facility's managers, as we need the buildings from 8AM-4:30PM every day. In April, we received commitment for the rest of 2020 from the Mid-County Branch Library in Clayton, the North County Recreation Complex, the South County Government Center, and the West County Government Center. The South and West County Government Centers will not be able to open earlier because of prior commitments. The Board then discussed their thoughts on opening satellite locations earlier.

There was nothing to discuss under Financial/Budget.

There was nothing to discuss under Personnel.

There was nothing to discuss under Legal in the open meeting.

Recap:

- Present a list of items that are currently working and not working on the website
- Keep Board advised of plans with the new website
- Keep a running tab of grant fund expenses and plans
- Provide flyers and videos to Board
- Aggressively communicate about satellite locations

Chair Buchanan-McClure announced the Board would adjourn after closed session, and moved that the meeting be closed pursuant to RSMo 610.021(1),(2),(3), (12) and (13) to discuss litigation, real estate, and personnel matters. Secretary Foushee seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the votes were as follows: Chair Buchanan-McClure, aye; Secretary Foushee, aye; Commissioner Potter, aye; Commissioner Barnhart, aye.



Sharon Buchanan-McClure, Chair



Trudi McCollum Foushee, Secretary