**Decatur County Board of Elections and Registration**

**Decatur County Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room**

**203 W. Broughton St.**

**Bainbridge, GA 39819**

**January 10, 2017**

**Call To Order**

**Administrative Notes**

The monthly meeting of the Decatur County Board of Elections and Voter Registration was called to order by Board Chairman Wendell Cofer at 6:30 p.m. and stated that the meeting had been duly advertised in the newspaper and on the appropriate buildings properly identifying meeting date, time and location as required by governing laws.

Probate Judge Edwin J. “Chip” Perry III administered the oaths of office to reappointed Board Members Wendell Cofer and Beverly Holmes.

**Public Participation**: Basil Lucas, a resident of Rivervale subdivision, thanked the board for being aware of their situation on Election Day and being atoned to the special circumstances of those voters.

**Board Members present: Staff present:**

Board Chairman Wendell Cofer Carol P. Heard, Chief Elections Official

Board Vice Chairman Willie Lamb Jr. Linda Walton, Clerk of Voter Registration

Board Member Beverly Holmes Elections Staff Margaret Bryant and Carla Robinson

Board Member Keith Sellars Judge Edwin J. “Chip” Perry III

Board Member Gina Burke Members of the public Bill Galpin and Basil Lucas

**Approve Minutes**

Board Member Gina Burke made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 13, 2016, meeting, and Board Member Beverly Holmes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Budget**

The ideal remaining budget percentage should be 58, but the Board of Elections has 55, which means in theory the board is over budget. However, that came right after the General Election, which took a large portion of the Board’s budget.

**Old Business**

 **(A) Intergovernmental agreement with the Board of Education to hold Special Called Election on behalf of the Decatur County Board of Education.**

1. **Proposed budget for Special Called Election.** Chairman Wendell Cofer pointed out the estimated budget for the March 21 Special Called Election, which was $21,926.50. Chairman Cofer said once the actual expenses of the election have been collected from the Board of Education, those funds will be reimbursed to the Decatur County Board of County Commissioners, and the money reimbursed will not show up in Board of Elections’ budget or as income. Chairman Cofer said he will write a letter to the county administrator informing him of the Board’s circumstances as it relates to the Board of Education’s Special Called Election.
2. **Use of ExpressPolls to create cards instead of DREs.** Chief Elections Official Carol Heard said she would like to get away from using voting machines such as the DREs to create voter access cards during advance voting periods. Heard said using the new ExpressPolls will also eliminate the need to end the election on a DRE that is used specifically for creating cards, thus saving time and use of DREs on Election Day.

**(B) Intergovernmental Agreements with the Cities of Bainbridge and Climax and the Town of Brinson.**

Chairman Wendell Cofer said to change the signature page of the agreement (page 9 of 11) to have the chairman of the Decatur County Board of Commissioners sign it instead of county administrator. Chairman Cofer offered a motion to have the staff make the changes on the signature page and then proceed to execute the intergovernmental agreements with each municipality. Board Member Keith Sellars moved the motion, Vice Chairman Willie Lamb seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**New Business**

**(A) Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

Board Member Keith Sellars nominated Wendell Cofer as chairman and Willie Lamb as vice chairman. Board Member Beverly Holmes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**(B) Consideration of rewriting Board bylaws dealing with the Secretary, Section VI. Organization of the Board, paragraph C.**

Chairman Wendell Cofer said the current bylaws say the Board shall elect one of its members to serve as Secretary, and that the Secretary supervises the taking of minutes of meetings. Cofer said those duties are handled by the Chief Elections Official and her staff. Board Member Beverly Holmes offered a motion to eliminate the position of Secretary from the bylaws and transfer those duties to staff. Board Member Gina Burke seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**(C) Change of precinct lines of approximately 61 to 66 voters mainly in the Rivervale subdivision from the Mount Pleasant precinct to the Fairgrounds precinct.**

Approximately 60 voters who live in the Rivervale subdivision and within the city limits of Bainbridge were assigned to the Mount Pleasant precinct about 10 years ago. Chairman Wendell Cofer said the Board is proposing to use the City of Bainbridge city limits line as the boundary line so those voters would be able to vote at the Fairgrounds precinct on Election Day instead of Mount Pleasant. The board is proposing to make these changes following the March 21 election. Chairman Cofer offered a motion for the staff to move forward with proper advertising, notifications, etc., following the March 21 Special Called Election. Vice Chairman Willie Lamb made the motion, Board Member Gina Burke seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**NOTES:** Chairman Wendell Cofer thanked the staff for its hard work during the 2016 election year. He stated the board and staff conducted the elections under budget and reported the results fairly quickly. Cofer said on behalf of the board, he complimented the staff’s work in 2016 and congratulated them on a job well done.

**Adjournment --** The meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.