**Decatur County Board of Elections and Registration**

**Decatur County Board of Elections Meeting Room**

**122 W. Water St.**

**Bainbridge, GA 39819**

**November 14, 2016**

**Call To Order**

**Administrative Notes**

The monthly meeting of the Decatur County Board of Elections and Voter Registration was called to order by Interim Chairman Willie Lamb at 6:55 p.m. and stated that the meeting has been duly advertised in the newspaper and on the buildings properly identifying meeting date, time and location as required by governing laws. Board Chairman Wendell Cofer had rescued himself for the month of November, and Board Member Beverly Holmes had earlier indicated she had a conflict.

**Board Members present: Staff present:**

Interim Chairman Willie Lamb Jr. Carol P. Heard (Chief Elections Official)

Gina Burke Linda Walton (Clerk of Voter Registration)

Keith Sellars IT: Sterling Widner

 Elections Staff: Carla Robinson and Margaret Bryant.

 Poll workers: Billy Ward and Edith Miller

Members of the public: David and Pamela Benjamin.

**Public Participation**

Write-in Sheriff’s candidate David Benjamin requested to speak. He said the public should be better informed of a write-in list. He also said he was told that there were machines that hadn’t been working properly. Board Member Keith Sellars asked Mr. Benjamin for more specifics on reports of machines not working properly. Mr. Benjamin said there was one at the Coliseum. Elections Staff Member Carla Robinson, who worked at the Coliseum on Election Day, said one DRE was shut down early because the touchscreen wasn’t very responsive and another DRE would not print a tape right away after ending the election, but did shortly after. Mr. Benjamin said voter Charles Miller attempted to do a write-in for sheriff at the Climax precinct, but it won’t accept it. However, Mr. Miller’s circumstances was not clear and he didn’t report it to the precinct manager.

**Approve Minutes**

Board Member Gina Burke made a motion to accept the minutes of the Oct. 11, 2016, meeting. Board Member Keith Sellars seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

**Old Business**

**(A) Budget**

The budget had a total expenditure of 64 percent. The ideal remaining percent was also 64 percent. Chief Elections Official Carol Heard said it did not include many of the expenses from the General Election.

**New Business**

**(A) Consideration of provisional ballots**

Clerk of Voter Registration Linda Walton presented the 129 provisional ballots cast in the November 8, 2016, General Election. Board Member Gina Burke requested that we not read the individual voters who were not registered, who had been canceled or who voted out of county.

Persons who cast ballots but were not registered, or who had been canceled or who voted out of county:

* **Attapulgus:** Pedro Mendoza (pending citizenship); Casey Dollar, (canceled); B.J. Mathis (not registered); Tameka Jackson (canceled); Andre Ricardo Conner (not registered); Carlus Chavers Jr. (not registered); Alisha Durden (voted out of county); and, Ariel Lafaye Varner (voted out of county).
* **Brinson:** Timothy Jones (not registered); Carol M. Davis (canceled/no activity); and, Ceaphus Hartsfield (voted out of county).
* **Climax:** Lisa Barfield (not registered); Nathaniel Thornton (not registered); Melissa Harrell (not registered); Katie Toole (voted out of county); Mark Edward Mason (voted out of county); Alma Doreen Collett (voted out of county); and, Larry B. Wilson (no ID).
* **Coliseum:** Robert Green (not registered); Tony D. Apperson (not registered); William Winburn (not registered); Carenshia Kennedy (not registered); Shelia M. Reynolds (canceled); Jamie McAnelly (not registered); Destini Young (not registered); Alexia Miller (canceled/not verified); Latiffani Hicks (canceled/felon); Craig T. Weaver (canceled; no activity); Thelma Johnson (canceled, no activity); Davarrio Worthy (canceled/felon); Teressia Ann Meredith (canceled/no activity); Donald Kenneth Moore Jr. (voted out of county); Pamela Walker (voted out of county); and, Ira Lee Jones (voted out of county).
* **Fairgrounds:** Teronnica Harris (registered after Oct. 11 deadline); Benjamin D. Bittmer (registered after Oct. 11 deadline); LaRhonda A. Burke (not registered); Aleah Shyne Clarke (not registered); Heath Savage (not registered); Eric M. Vickers (not registered); Lonnie O’Neal (not registered); Tawanea Allen (canceled/no activity); Kennisha Vanshae Jones (canceled/not verified); Courtney L. Harris (canceled); Erica Smart (canceled); Floyd Ellis Gowan (canceled); Martha Samuel (canceled); Luther S. Franklin (canceled); and Sandricka L. Anderson (canceled/felon).
* **Kendrick:** Jacqueline Morrison (registered after Oct. 11 deadline).
* **Recovery:** Earl Parnell (not registered); and, Hope B. Butler (not registered).
* **West Bainbridge:** Levi Chandler Jr. (not registered); T’erra Marie Faison (not registered); Keishia Lovett Breedlove (not registered); Johnny Mack Hand (not registered); Joseph Carl Stogner (registered after Oct. 11 deadline); Karmin D. Hoffman (registered after Oct. 11 deadline); James Michael Boggess Jr. (canceled, no activity); Rochell Harris Jr. (canceled, no activity); Steven Randall Meredith (voted out of county); and, Dekendrick Shairod Williams (voted out of state).
* **Advance voting – Courthouse Annex:** Harvey Neal Meggs (not registered); Jessie W. Chevallier (not registered); Kimberly Grimsley (not registered); Robert Curtis Brown (not registered); Christopher David Miller (not registered); Franklin Mark Conner (not registered); Shakeria Tymyra McClendon (not registered); Darquita D. Perkins (canceled, not activity); Barbara Williams (canceled, not activity); Wyndell Lavon West Jr. (canceled, not activity); Kimberly B. Nesmith (canceled, not activity); Eunice R. Josey (canceled, not activity); Joshua David Burke (canceled, not activity); Kristen Morehouse (registered after Oct. 11 deadline); Terry Foster Lankford (registered after Oct. 11 deadline); and. Kenji Cotton (registered after Oct. 11 deadline).
* **Advance voting – Fairgrounds:** Marsha R. Starling (voted out of county); Lori Ann Donalson (voted out of county); Tiffany Stuart Tucker (voted out of county); Carolyn Dees (voted out of county); JoAnn Butler (registered after Oct. 11 deadline); Mark Chitwood (registered after Oct. 11 deadline); Justin M. Hatcher (not registered); Collin B. Ward (not registered); Tyler Braswell (not registered); Hunter W. Long (not registered); Ladarien Gadson (not registered); Susan B. Long (not registered); Sean Wilson (canceled/no activity); and, John E. Gibson (canceled/felon).

Board member Keith Sellars made a motion to reject and not count those provisional ballots voted on by persons not registered in Decatur County, who had been canceled or who had registered after the Oct. 11 deadline. Board member Gina Burke seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Voters who voted out of precinct but registered in Decatur County:

* **Attapulgus:** Sherika Osborne, Terrance Walker, Ashley Harris, Amanda Dollar, Destiny Dawkins, Brandon Bates, Peggy I. Ellis and Laura Hawk.
* **Brinson:** Townsend Livingston.
* **Coliseum:** Lakeisha Madge, Tara Lashea Jones, Brittany McCoy, Sanjuana Galnares, Freemon Morris, Michael Duke, Lea A. Gunn, Sharon Lefaye Moore, Thundero Anderson, Rosalyn Anderson.
* **Fairgrounds:** Octavis Perrin, Lisa Ware, Amber Cantley, Katheryne Dekle Glisson, Michael L. Stubbs and Sabrina Harrell.
* **Mount Pleasant:** Kenisha Wingate.
* **Recovery:** James R. Glisson.
* **West Bainbridge:** Shermeka Lashae McGee, Stephanie Evans, Nancy D. Moye and Channell Angelique Jackson.

Board Member Gina Burke made a motion to accept and count the ballots of voters who voted out of precinct but who were registered in Decatur County. Board Member Keith Sellars seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

**Special circumstances:**

* Tiffany Pearson (active voter who should have voted on DRE). Ballot was counted.
* William Aultman, the Georgia Secretary of State’s database said the voter canceled his registration, which he doesn’t remember doing and is highly unusual. Chief Elections Official Carol Heard said any record of any such action would have been destroyed within two years of such a request. This was done in 2012. Heard said the fact that we are requested to destroy documents after two years may seem more logical to destroy them after four years, particularly during a presidential cycle. Board Member Keith Sellars made a motion to accept his vote since he reasoned it would be the Board’s burden of proof that he did cancel, which it can’t do. Board Member Gina Burke seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Sellars requested that the staff ensure that he is re-registered.
* Terry Bird, Department of Driver Services (DDS) submitted paperwork that he may have indicated that he wanted to be registered to vote but they didn’t register him. Board Member Keith Sellars said based on the mark on the DDS application that he did intend to register. Chief Elections Official Carol Heard said this case brought forth several other instances of voters who said they had requested to be registered to vote with DDS but were not. Heard contended that a person’s right to vote shouldn’t rest with a DDS clerk, and that a voter should opt out of voting instead of having to opt in. Board Member Keith Sellars said he would like to consider discussion of this at the next meeting. He then made a motion to accept and count the ballot of Terry Bird and for staff to ensure he is registered. Board Member Gina Burke seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
* Martha Jane Avery, not registered. She claimed DDS didn’t register her but has no paperwork to support her claim. Staff noted there were several claims by potential voters who claimed they had wanted to register to vote but DDS failed to register them. Board Member Keith Sellars said he feels that every vote needs to count and that the board wants to side with the voter as long as it protects the electoral system. He made a motion to not accept Ms. Avery’s ballot because she didn’t furnish proper documentation. Board Member Gina Burke seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chief Elections Official Carol Heard said the board is set to certify the election with David Benjamin receiving 203 write-in votes.

**(B) Poll Worker Appreciation Dinner**

Chief Elections Official Carol Heard said there have been four elections in 2016 and the poll workers have done a great job in fulfilling their duties. The date has been set for Dec. 6 at the Cloud Livestock Building. Heard is suggesting that the county in the Board’s budget provide a meat, such as smoked pork chops, and all others bring other dishes or items like a potluck dinner.

The Board adjourned by 7:27 p.m.