**Decatur County Board of Elections and Registration**

**Decatur County Elections Office, Courthouse Annex**

**122 W. Water St.**

**Bainbridge, GA 39817**

**January 12, 2021**

**Call To Order**

**Administrative Notes and Announcements**

The regular meeting of the Decatur County Board of Elections and Voter Registration was called to order by Board Chairman Keith Sellars at 6:29 p.m., and stated that the meeting had been duly advertised in the newspaper, and on the appropriate building properly identifying the meeting date, time and location as required by governing laws.

**Public Participation**: None

**Board Members present: Staff and others present:**

Board Chairman Keith Sellars Carol P. Heard, Chief Elections Official

Board Vice Chairman Beverly Holmes Tasia Porter, Clerk of Voter Registration

Board Member Johnny Brown Margaret Bryant, office staff

Board Member Gina Burke Poll workers Melba Andrews, Edith Miller, Billy Ward,

Board Member Dan Provence Suzan Yates, Emma Sales and Tracy Moten

 Probate Judge Eric Gay

Democratic Party state liaison Meghan Heckman

**Approved Minutes**

Board Member Gina Burke made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 8, 2020, regular meeting. Board Member Johnny Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Budget**

Chief Elections Official Carol Heard reviewed the 2020-2021 budget. The Elections Office is at 28 percent with the ideal remaining at 50 percent. The Office is over-budget on election and operating supplies, contract labor and a little bit of overtime. Heard said the Special Election costs will be reimbursed by the Decatur County Board of Education.

**Old Business**

1. Probate Judge Eric Gay requests board members and Elections Board staff to take a Loyalty Oath.
2. Judge Gay swears in Democratic Party appointee Beverly Holmes and Republican Party appointee Dan Provence.

**New Business**

1. Election of Board Chairman and Vice Chairman

Chairman Keith Sellars and Vice Chairman Beverly Holmes each offered themselves to continue serving in their current roles. Board Member Gina Burke made a motion to continue the slate of officers as present. Board Member Dan Provence seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

 Chairman Sellars appreciated the honor of serving again and thanked the board members, staff and poll workers for their hard work, especially following the 2020 election cycle.

1. Certification of Jan. 5, 2021, Runoff Election

Chief Elections Official Carol Heard briefly went over the results of the Jan. 5, 2021, Runoff Election. Board Member Gina Burke made a motion to certify the election. Vice Chairman Beverly Holmes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

1. Resolution from Decatur County Board of Education to conduct a special election on March 16

Chief Elections Official Carol Heard said the Decatur County Board of Education requested a special election be held on March 16 for voters’ approval of a bond issuance and ESPLOST renewal. Board Member Dan Provence made a motion to approve the resolution, Board Member Johnny Brown seconded. The resolution for the Special Election passed unanimously.

1. Meeting schedule for remainder of 2021

Chairman Keith Sellars sought input on moving the regular meeting on March 9 to March 23 because of the March 16th Special Election. Board Member Gina Burke made a motion to move the regular board meeting to March 23 in order to certify the March 16 Special Election. Board Member Dan Provence seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The Board agreed to the following schedule:

* 1. May 11 – Regular Meeting.
	2. August 10 – Regular Meeting.
	3. November 9, Regular Meeting and to certify Nov. 2 municipal election.

**Adjournment --** The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.