**Decatur County Board of Elections and Registration**

**Decatur County Elections Office, Courthouse Annex**

**122 W. Water St.**

**Bainbridge, GA 39817**

**June 16, 2020**

**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 6:30 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 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 Dan Provence Poll workers Suzan Yates, Edith Miller, Billy Ward,

Board Member Gina Burke Patricia Williams and Zakiya Williams

Democratic Party liaison Meghan Hickman

**Approved Minutes**

Board Member Gina Burke made a motion to accept the minutes from the May 12, 2020, regular meeting. Board Member Dan Provence seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Budget**

Review of the current budget as of April 30 with ideally 17 percent of the budget remaining. The Elections Office had -2 percent remaining. Board Chairman Keith Sellars pointed out the -10 percent for overtime; -366 percent on dues and fees, which a large part are legal fees; -243 percent for operating supplies; -959 percent for election supplies. Sellars said what’s included in the election supplies and some operating supplies are items that the Secretary of State’s Office will reimburse. A percentage will go to the county for such items as tables, sneeze guards, and personal protection equipment such as face masks. Chief Elections Official Carol Heard said there was a special election in January, the March Presidential Preference Primary was postponed and then it was combined with the General Primary, which required a great deal of work because of the volume of absentee ballot requests. Heard and Sellars said the poll workers and office staff did an awesome job this election.

**Old Business**

1. **Split the Coliseum precinct into two separate precincts**

Chief Elections Official Carol Heard said the Coliseum precinct is by far the largest with more than 5,500 active voters. There was concern with electrical outlets, which has been addressed. Heard said looking at the Coliseum precinct as well as some others will be addressed next year to coincide with reapportionment. Heard said County Administrator Alan Thomas raised questions on splitting the Coliseum just before the General Election. Heard also said there are voters still confused about their precinct locations. Heard said she would like to see a vote center established on Election Day. For example, having the office serve as a vote center because of the number of voters who come in to try to vote, only to be told they have to go to their precinct. During an emergency, a vote center in each county could benefit voters as well. Chairman Sellars said his big concern was causing more confusion for voters. He felt more comfortable with splitting the precinct next year when more time and forethought could be done.

**New Business**

1. **Certify June 9th General Primary and Presidential Preference Primary**

CEO Heard outlined the highlights of the General Primary and Presidential Preference Primary election results. Early scanning and the drop box went well. Board Member Dan Provence moved to certify the election, and Board Member Beverly Holmes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

1. **Purchase of EasyVote inventory program**

EasyVote Inventory program is included in the next fiscal year’s budget. There’s a lot of equipment and consumables that need to be dispatched to each precinct, and a demonstration from EasyVote showed all necessary items would be inventoried and accounted for at each location through the use of barcodes.

1. **Starting Student Ambassador program at Bainbridge High School**

CEO Heard mentioned poll worker Colby Whitaker as being an outstanding worker, as well as Ryan Whitaker and Sarah Farrington. They both came back to work as poll workers. The Student Ambassador Program is an excellent outlet to get some good poll workers. Board Member Gina Burke said she will get with Principal Roy Matthews on pushing the program forward.

1. **Adjudication Module**

CEO Heard said the Election Management software’s adjudication module would minimize the work involved in duplicating ballots because of ambiguous marks, etc. The program would highlight the area of the ballot with the ambiguous mark and the review team could resolve the issue very quickly and proceed scanning the ballot. Heard would encourage the regional technical manager for Dominion Voting demonstrate the module.

**Adjournment --** The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.