**Decatur County Board of Elections and Registration**

**Decatur County Elections Office, Courthouse Annex**

**122 W. Water St.**

**Bainbridge, GA 39817**

**September 8, 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 6:29 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. Mr. Sellars reported Board Member Gina Burke could not attend.

**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 worker Suzan Yates, Melba Andrew, Zack Calhoun,

Board Member Gina Burke Estella Bryant and Billy Ward.

 Democratic Party Liaison Meghan Hickman

**Approved Minutes**

Board Member Gina Burke made a motion to accept the minutes from the Aug. 11, 2020, regular meeting. Board Vice Chairman Beverly Holmes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Budget**

Board Chairman Keith Sellars reviewed the 2020-2021 budget. He asked about the liability/property insurance. The second item was small equipment, which has 7 percent left in the budget. CEO Heard said the elections office purchased two Chrome laptop computers and the projector.

**Old Business**

1. **Poll Worker recruitment and training**

Chief Elections Official Carol Heard said the recruitment and training has gone well. The precincts on Election Day are covered, and there are additional persons who are requesting to become a poll worker. All the poll worker training has finished except for new recruits, which will take place late during advanced voting.

Board Member Dan Provence asked what procedures and alerts there are for people who may try to vote twice. CEO Heard explained that this election, the state has added criteria for voters who have been issued a ballot, a ballot that was accepted by the office and thus has been voted, and a voter who has voted in advanced. Heard said she is concerned on Election Day for those ballots issued and are not reflected in the bulk update.

Heard said that if a voter cannot account for an issued ballot, and decides to vote at the precinct on Election Day, that voter will be asked to vote provisionally.

**New Business**

1. **Absentee Ballot fulfillment by the Secretary of State’s Office**

Chief Elections Official Carol Heard said the state is offering to print mail-in ballots for $1.40 per ballot through Oct. 16. This would relieve the staff from printing and processing mail-in ballots up until that time. Board Member Dan Provence asked if we felt comfortable with the state issuing and mailing the ballots. Heard said at this point the state has handled the processing fine and has not given us reason to doubt the processing.

1. **Ballot drop boxes and state grant**

Chief Elections Official Carol Heard said the state extended the grant for drop boxes at 75 percent. Her concern was to have a more secure drop box.

The Library has offered to be a new drop box location. Heard said the drawback is that it’s not feasible to use the library since it’s so close

Chairman Sellars asked if the board wanted to move forward with the model 600 with shipping? Board members expressed agreement with the model 600.

1. **Update on forthcoming General Election**

Heard said the Annex and the Firegrounds will be open for advanced voting for this election.

Heard said that any ballot that is unaccounted for, the voter will be offered a provisional ballot. This would be a step to keep voters from voting twice for those who fall in the cracks between Friday’s bulk update the when mail-in ballots are received.

Chairman Sellars highlighted certain aspects of the State Election Board rules and State Election laws dealing with provisional voting.

**Adjournment --** The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.