**Decatur County Board of Elections and Registration**

**Decatur County Board of Commissioners Meeting Room**

**203 W. Broughton Street**

**Bainbridge, GA 39819**

**April 12, 2016**

**Call To Order**

**Administrative Notes**

The monthly meeting of the Decatur County Board of Elections and Voter Registration was called to order by Chairman Wendell Cofer at 5:31 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 member Gina Burke had informed the board and staff that she could not attend.

**Board Members present: Staff present:**

Chairman Wendell Cofer Carol P. Heard (Chief Elections Official)

Vice Chairman Willie Lamb Jr. (late) Linda Walton (Clerk of Voter Registration)

Beverly W. Holmes

Keith Sellars

**Approve Minutes**

Board Member Keith Sellars made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 4, 2016, post-election Presidential Preference Primary meeting. Board Member Beverly Holmes seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business**

**(A) Budget**

The Board’s budget has 38 percent remaining while there is 22 percent of the fiscal year remaining. The Board also was presented with a copy of the next fiscal year’s budget.

Clerk of Voter Registration Linda Walton and Elections Clerk Margaret Bryant went to an Easy Vote demonstration in Leesburg, and Walton presented some of the pros and cons of the Easy Vote system. There was some discussion on what the Easy Vote system entails. Walton said the cost is $2,000 a year. It has not been budgeted at this point. Walton said she is awaiting the company’s representative on a possible presentation they may give to the board. Chairman Cofer instructed staff to set up a presentation.

**New Business**

**(A) Cofer’s leave of absence**

Board Chairman Wendell Cofer reminded the Board of his unpaid leave of absence for the month of May. Cofer said he would rejoin the Board when it appears that there is no conflict with his position on the Board and his position as undersheriff.

**(B) Fairgrounds polling location**

The county agriculture office was concerned with the security of vehicles parked in the lot next to the Fairgrounds polling location. Upon some discussion between persons with the agriculture office and the Elections Office, it was agreed that the fence along the front of the Fairgrounds polling location be removed and the side fences would be locked for those vehicles. Any issue with trying to open a gate or fence to get into the Fairgrounds Chamber 1 Building for elections would be eliminated. Chairman Cofer said he would also like to see if there’s money in the county budget to erect a flagpole, add a walkway into the polling location from the small ticket building and do other things to enhance the building’s appearance.

**(C) Poll workers’ meals and drinks**

Chairman Cofer said he and County Administrator Alan Thomas have coordinated to provide meals and waters to the poll workers on Election Day. Chief Elections Officials Carol Heard said she is leaning toward Boyd’s Barbecue. Staff would work on the logistics.

**(D) Next scheduled board meeting**

After some discussion on which day in May the Board would meet, it was decided to set the next meeting as May 27 barring any unforeseen circumstances.

**(E) Election night assignments**

Discussion on board members’ election night assignments was made and a tentative schedule was agreed to: Interim Chairman Willie Lamb and Board Member Beverly Holmes will coordinate early tabulation; Board Member Keith Sellars will assist with reguular tabulation and the GEMS; and Board Member Gina Burke assisting with the early voting DRE machines.

Chief Elections Officials and Board Chairman Wendell Cofer again emphasized the plans on Election night to make sure the poll managers know that their priority on Election night is to get the elections results to the office and then “close down” the precinct and finalize the paperwork the next day. Sellars suggested we touch base with all the manager again to re-emphasize the need to get results back to the office by 8 or 8:30 p.m.

The Board adjourned by 7:02 p.m.