**Decatur County Board of Elections and Registration**

**Decatur County Board of Elections Meeting Room**

**122 W. Water St.**

**Bainbridge, GA 39819**

**July 29, 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 5:30 p.m. and stated that the meeting had been duly advertised in the newspaper and on the appropriate buildings properly identifying meeting date, time and location as required by governing laws. Gina Burke was absent. (Board Member Burke texted Chief Elections Official Carol Heard that she had a doctor’s appointment in Dothan. However, Heard didn’t receive the text until 6:27 p.m.)

**Public Participation**: None

**Board Members present: Staff present:**

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

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

Keith Sellars Sheriff’s Office IT Manager Roy Reynolds and Carolyn

Beverly W. Holmes Reynolds

**Approve Minutes**

Board Member Keith Sellars made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 14, 2016, meeting but requesting the wording be changed to reflect that the staff needs to be paid for the overtime, which was on Page 3, the fifth paragraph addressing “Overtime hours,” etc. Board Member Beverly Holmes seconded with the requested change to Page 2, the first paragraph, change the word from “to” to “from” to read “overtime was decreased from $5,000 to $2,500.” Motion passed unanimously with instructions to make those changes.

**Old Business**

**(A) Budget** – Chairman Wendell Cofer said board members were presented with a final budget other than an audit being done on it, and the new budget that’s in effect. Chairman Cofer noted that the Board ended its last fiscal year with a 15 percent of its budget not spent. He said the Board returned approximately $42,591 back to the county out of a $283,946 budget. He said of the items that the Board and its staff have control over, such as operating supplies was over and overtime; however, the overtime amount bodes well with what the budget reflects for the 2016-17 fiscal year.

**New Business**

**(A) Provisional Ballots –** Clerk of Voter Registration Linda Walton presented the 19 provisional ballots to the Board. There were two provisional ballots from Advance Voting, Pershawn Benedict was registered in Thomas County and Taylor Greene turned 18 after the deadline of April 26 for the Primary and Runoff Elections.

At the Coliseum, the following voters voted out of precinct and are registered in Decatur County: Gregory Daryl Hall, Caitlin Vivian Cato, Letha Herring, Reginald C. Hampton, Minnie R. Allen, Benjamin David Hall, Victoria L. Parker, Debra A. Brock and Penny Hall Moore.

At the Fairgrounds precinct, Kalen Regina Jones turned 18 after the April 26 deadline. Also at the Fairgrounds, the following voters voted out of precinct and are registered in Decatur County: Milton E. Godwin, Cathy Spooner, James Spooner, Carl Turner Lynn, Ekerry Dothan Harrell, Beverly Reece and James Reece.

Board Member Keith Sellars asked how we determine if a voter voted in the primary election. Chief Elections Official Carol Heard said the Georgia Secretary of State gives each voter credit for voting that is reflected in each voter’s record on the eNet system. Heard also said that the law says the “pool of voters” are those who are registered to vote and not just those who voted in the primary. Chairman Wendell Cofer further explained that if a voter voted a Republican ballot in the primary, and there was a Democratic runoff, that voter could not participate in the runoff because they didn’t vote in the Democratic primary. But this was a general runoff election, so all eligible voters were entitled to vote.

Chairman Cofer made a motion to not count the provisional ballots of Taylor Green and Kalen Regina Jones because they were not eligible to vote. Motion passed unanimously. Chairman Cofer instructed staff in the letter to the voters that we were proud of their attempt to vote and to please continue to exercise their right to vote.

Chairman Cofer made a motion to not count the provisional ballot of Pershawn Benedict, who was registered in Thomas County. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Cofer made a motion to count the provisional ballots of voters who voted out of precinct but are registered to vote in Decatur County. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Cofer made a motion to certify and finalize the election. Motion passed unanimously.

**(B) Upcoming Events** – Chairman Cofer said there is a potential in September of having a write-in candidate for sheriff that could offer a conflict with his employer, so Cofer said he plans to not attend the September meeting and asked Vice Chairman Willie Lamb to ensure he can chair that meeting.

The Board adjourned by 5:40 p.m.