**Decatur County Board of Elections and Registration**

**Decatur County Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room**

**203 W. Broughton St.**

**Bainbridge, GA 39819**

**June 14, 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 6:30 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 Members Keith Sellars and Gina Burke had informed the board and staff ahead of the meeting that they would be absent.

**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)

Beverly W. Holmes Elections Staff Margaret Bryant and poll workers Charlie Laing, Emma Sales and Evelyn Severson-Stubbs

**Approve Minutes**

Board Member Beverly Holmes made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 14, 2016, meeting. Board Member Willie Lamb seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

**Old Business**

**(A) Budget**

Board members were provided with copies of the proposed 2016-17 budget, which was $260,780, which is $23,166 less than the proposed 2015-16 budget. It will take the board through the July 26 Primary Runoff and the Nov. 8, 2016 General Election. Chairman Wendell Cofer said the county’s budget went through its first public hearing that morning. The budget’s final hearing and anticipated adoption is during the June 28 Board of County Commissioners meeting, which the budget should be in place by July 1. Chairman Cofer asked if there was any comments, suggestions, etc., on the budget. There were none. He said they did increase the amount of money for travel and training. Chief Elections Official Carol Heard mentioned that Elections Staff Members Margaret Bryant and Carla Robinson as well as IT contractor Sterling Widner are scheduled to travel to Kennesaw State University’s Election Center to complete the mandatory county certification training on Aug.8-10. She said Bryant and Robinson have completed their county certification portion that’s on the internet.

**New Business**

**(A) Status of Primary Election and the food, water, etc.**

Chairman Wendell Cofer wanted to hear how the conduct of the election went as well as how the poll workers felt about the food and water that was provided to them on Election Day. The county provided bottled water and delivered Boyd’s BBQ lunches to each poll worker.

Coliseum Manager Charlie Laing said he thought it went really well. He said his poll workers enjoyed and appreciated the lunch. Fairgrounds and Attapulgus Poll Managers Evelyn Severson Stubbs and Emma Sales concurred with Mr. Laing. He did recommend that the food could have been delivered closer to 1 p.m. instead of noon because the workers have to be there until 7 p.m. Chairman Cofer said that is something to think about next election. Heard said it helped that then Interim Chairman Willie Lamb, staff member Margaret Bryant and herself were able to deliver meals to the outlaying precincts and Boyd’s was able to deliver to the three large precincts in town. Cofer said the office staff should also have lunch provided.

**(B) Mentoring managers for the Runoff Election**

Chief Elections Official Carol Heard said she wants to have experienced managers mentor and train poll workers who have potential to become managers in the future or who could become managers in an emergency. Cofer said the idea of mentoring managers is excellent.

Heard also complimented the poll workers and managers, board members and staff in getting results back to the elections office so quickly following the May 24 Primary Election.

**(C) Saturday voting for the Runoff Election**

Chairman Wendell Cofer said the Board of Elections is not legally required to provide Saturday advance voting since there is no federal candidate on the ballot.

Chief Elections Official Carol Heard said since there has been Saturday voting during each election so far this year and it will be required for the General Election that the board may want to continue the Saturday voting in this election to ensure continuity and avoid confusion among voters.

Board Member Beverly Holmes said she wanted that continuity. Chairman Wendell Cofer said he wanted to continue the Saturday voting as well to avoid any confusion that voters may have.

Board Member Willie Lamb made a motion to continue the Board practice of having advance voting on Saturday, July 16, for the Runoff Election. Board Member Beverly Holmes seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Wendell Cofer read the upcoming events listed on the agenda and said he would like to have election night assignments spelled out again for the Runoff Election with the hopes of more practice.

The board agreed to let Clerk of Voter Registration Linda Walton purchase a chair.

The Board adjourned by 6:47 p.m.