**Decatur County Board of Elections and Registration**

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

**203 W. Broughton St.**

**Bainbridge, GA 39819**

**October 11, 2016**

**Call To Order**

**Administrative Notes**

The monthly meeting of the Decatur County Board of Elections and Voter Registration was called to order by Board Chairman Wendell Cofer at 6:30 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.

**Public Participation**: None

**Board Members present: Staff present:**

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

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

Board Member Beverly Holmes Elections Staff Carla Robinson, Margaret Bryant

Board Member Keith Sellars and Janelle Nelson

Board Member Gina Burke (arrived a little late) Poll worker Billy Ward

**Approve Minutes**

Board Member Beverly Holmes made a motion to accept the minutes from the September 15, 2016, meeting, and Board Vice Chairman Willie Lamb seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Budget**

Chief Elections Official Carol Heard said the ideal percentage of the budget remaining is 75 percent and the Elections Office has 78 percent remaining. Heard said the purchase order for the ExpressPoll 5000s arrived and it will taken out of machinery and equipment category.

**Old Business**

 **(A) Hours of Early Voting – Sunday Voting.**

Board Vice Chairman Willie Lamb requested that Early Voting on Sunday be placed on the agenda and that Dr. Charles Stafford and Brock Washington had requested it be addressed again. Board Member Gina Burke asked what some of the reasoning for allowing Sunday voting would be. Lamb said it wanted to be explored by the Democratic Party because some of the surrounding counties had added hours on Sunday for early voting. Board Member Keith Sellars said he doesn’t see the need for it and that there is enough hours and resources devoted to early voting now and he can’t justify adding to it with Sunday hours. Burke agreed with Sellars. Board Member Beverly Holmes said since the board has extended the hours that are legally required, and those extended hours should be sufficient. After Burke requested a vote, Chairman Wendell Cofer posed the motion as the following: Those in favor of adding Sunday voting to our current early voting schedule, say “Yea.” There were none. Those opposed to adding Sunday voting to the current schedule, “No.” Motion failed unanimously with Chairman Cofer abstaining from the vote.

**(B) Chairman Wendell Cofer’s recusal for November.**

Chairman Cofer reminded the board of his recusal from his duties in November and that Vice Chairman Willie Lamb will serve as chairman during the General Election and in November.

**New Business**

**(A) Election Day and Election Night duties.**

Chief Elections Official Carol Heard said the duties on Election night are pretty much the same except the early tabulation should start at 4 p.m. instead of 5 p.m. because of the volume of absentee mail-in ballots.

**(C) Poll Worker and Board member potluck dinner.**

Chief Elections Official Carol Heard said the poll workers have done an amazing job this year. In the past, the former CEO and her husband hosted a fish fry. Heard said she has asked the Livestock Barn be reserved for Tuesday, Dec. 6. Chairman Wendell Cofer said he thought it was a great idea. Board Member Beverly Holmes asked what time, and Heard said around 6 p.m. Cofer said the best way is for the poll workers to bring the sides and desserts and the board provide a meat. Board Member Gina Burke said she will ask the Bainbridge High School FFA to do smoked pork chops.

**(B) Chief Elections Official certification with The Election Center, part of the National Association of Election.**

Chairman Wendell Cofer said he approached Chief Elections Official Carol Heard about getting a national elections certification with a session in February. Cofer said he thought the certification would be very helpful to the board and that he didn’t think it would take 12 years to complete. Cofer said the calendar allows the board to budget it in next year’s budget and to table it until then.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.