**Decatur County Board of Elections and Registration**

**Decatur County Elections Office, Courthouse Annex**

**122 W. Water St.**

**Bainbridge, GA 39817**

**November 15, 2022**

**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 6:31 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. All Board members were in attendance.

**Public Participation**: None

**Board Members present: Staff and others present:**

Board Chairman Keith Sellars Joyce Coddington, Chief Elections Official

Vice Chairman Beverly Holmes Linda Walton, Assistant Chief Elections Official

Board Member Dan Provence Margaret Bryant, Deputy Registrar

Board Member Johnny Brown

Board Member Gina Burke Rebecca Harrell, Charles Harrell, Emma Sales,

 Megan Phillips, Valerie Bush, Suzan Yates,

 Evelyn Severson, Patricia Williams, Valerie Bush

 Public: Marlis Fewell, Laura Winburn

**Approved Minutes**

Board member Gina Burke made a motion to accept the minutes from the October 11, 2022, regular meeting. Vice Chairman Holmes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Budget**

Chief Elections Official Joyce Coddington reviewed the current budget. Coddington reviewed the budget advising that the budget was currently at 87%, but that had not included the expenses for contract labor for the November 8th election.

**Old Business**

1. **Sterling and Internet**

Chairman Sellars asked Coddington about the status of Sterling and internet. Coddington stated that currently Elections is on its own internet and is currently being monitored by Sterling. Chairman Sellars stated that separating from the county’s internet was difficult and timely.

**New Business**

1. **Ballot Sorter**

Chairman Sellars requested that Election staff look into the cost of a ballot sorter for the scanners and depending on cost would like to see all precincts have one. If the cost is higher than expected then the Board would consider purchasing one at least for the Advanced voting Annex location. Coddington agreed to look into the cost and return with information.

1. **November 8, 2022 General Election**

Vice Chairman Holmes expressed concern about the sign at the Coliseum precinct causing voter confusion. Precinct manager explained that the sign created confusion. Coddington expressed that the sign was taken down for election day as to help reduce confusion. Holmes asked where the sign came from, Coddington responded that the sign was made when the Coliseum and Kirbo Center were split and agreed that the sign should no longer be used due to the confusion and wording of the sign. The subject of precinct cards arose and Coddington explained that when precinct cards are mailed and then returned with a bad address, that it is entered into the system and a letter is sent out to the voter in order to try to get a correct address. Coddington also advised that a plan from the state is in the process of changing the cards to keep down the confusion.

Coddington provided the Board with a copy of the final numbers for the November 8th Election. Board member Provence was pleased with the voter turnout for the county being 57%. Coddington agreed that it was good to see such a great turnout.

A question from attendee Laura Winburn asked about the ballot paper and the difference in venders and paper quality. Coddington answered the question regarding the ballot paper that was used for the November election was the wrong length of paper and the machine only recognizes the appropriate length of paper and that is what caused some issue with some of the absentee ballots when scanned. Winburn also said that she learned a lot and that the staff was very nice to work with.

Chairman Sellars also had advised that he would like to see an easier way to check in the equipment from each precinct. Sellars said that the check in sheet was prefilled and it was difficult to check in when people were coming in a dropping off equipment. Coddington agreed to try to make the check in easier.

Chairman Sellars asked for a motion to sign and certify the final results of the November 8, 2022 General election, Board member Johnny Brown made a motion and Board member Provence seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Board Members signed the Certified results.

 Sellars read through the upcoming events.

Chairman Sellars asked for a motion to adjourn. Board member Gina Burke motioned for adjournment and Vice Chairman Holmes seconded and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm