**Decatur County Board of Elections and Registration**

**Decatur County Elections Office, Courthouse Annex**

**122 W. Water St.**

**Bainbridge, GA 39817**

**March 15, 2024**

**Call To Order**

**Administrative Notes and Announcements**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Decatur County Board of Elections and Voter Registration was called to order by Vice Chairman Holmes at 5:01 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. Chairman Keith Sellars was unable to attend.

**Public Participation**: Poll workers

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

Vice Chairman Beverly Holmes Joyce Coddington, Election Supervisor

Board Member Dan Provence Linda Walton, Asst. Election Supervisor

Board Member Johnny Brown Margaret Bryant, Deputy Registrar

Board Member Gina Burke Becky Harrell, Charles Harrell,

 Melbah Andrews, Suzan Yates

 Melissa Taylor, Patricia Williams, Angela Bryant

 Penny White, Emma Sales, Zack Calhoun,

 Edith Miller

**Approved Minutes**

Board Member Provence motioned to accept the minutes from the February 13, 2024, regular meeting. Vice Chairman Holmes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Participation**

Vice Chairman Holmes called the meeting to order and asked for anyone wishing to speak before the meeting started. A few poll workers in attendance expressed their concern with the Conger Gym precinct, citing lighting and electrical issues. Supervisor Coddington acknowledged that she knew the concern for lighting, but was not aware of the electrical issues until the meeting. Supervisor Coddington advised the Board that some of the issues at the school building might not be repaired due to the cost to the Board of Education. Coddington expressed that Walton was looking into the use of the Joe Sweet building owned by the City of Bainbridge.

**Budget**

Supervisor Coddington advised the Board that the budget is currently at 55 % and noted that the March election expenses were not all accounted for and the next budget should reflect more accurately. Coddington also advised the Board that a correction had been made on a line item from the previous meeting regarding a staff member. Coddington also let the Board know that GTA was the previous phone service before the change to the phone systems provided by Sterling IT. Vice Chairman Holmes asked for clarification about the water situation for Fairgrounds, Coddington replied that the water leak was repaired right after finding the leak.

**New Business**

1. **Presidential Preference Primary/Certification/Provisionals**

Coddington presented a list of the Provisionals that had been approved by the staff and counted. Coddington explained that two of the Provisionals were out of the precinct after 5 pm and the third needed proof of ID. Member Provence asked for a vote in the election. Member Brown made a motion to accept the Provisionals and results, Member Burke seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

1. **Poll Worker Lunches**

Vice Chairman Holmes recognized the precinct manager from Mt. Pleasant. He stated one of the burgers provided was not cooked all the way and that the homemade chips were hard when they got cold. Vice Chairman Holmes asked for suggestions on the poll worker lunch issue. Coddington stated that the supervisors had some discussions regarding the lunch issue. One of the suggestions is to add a stipend to the poll workers' pay and have poll workers provide their lunches. The other suggestion is for poll workers to suggest other vendors that they would like lunches from. Vice Chairman Holmes addressed the poll workers in attendance and asked how they felt about bringing their lunches versus using another vendor.

The poll worker lunches issue was tabled until the next meeting.

1. **Signs**

Coddington presented the Board with the cost for some new signs to be used for upcoming elections.

1. **Executive Session for Staff Salaries**

The executive session started at 5:23 p.m. Vice Chairman Holmes returned from the executive session and read the meeting notes. All salaries would remain the same plus the 4% previously approved by the Board with the exception of Assistant Supervisor Walton, with a pay increase of $2500. The executive session ended at 5:40 p.m.

1. **2024-2025 Budget**

Member Provence asked what the previous year's budget total was versus the new budget total. Coddington explained that the differences were from the contractor pay which had increased due to the number of elections we were conducting. Vice Chairman Holmes asked about the Dominion cost and Coddington advised Holmes that the prior invoice numbers were used to predict this year's budget for Dominion warranties. Coddington also explained that the cost for Dominion was included in the proposed budget and was not a separate line item.

**Adjournment**:

5:53 pm

Motion made by Provence, seconded by Burke. The motion passed unanimously.