

**FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
AND VOTER REGISTRATION**

MINUTES

September 24, 2013

Board Members Present: Addison Lester, Chairman
Marilyn Watts

Staff Present: Tom Sawyer, Elections Supervisor
April Crosby, Election Officer
Beverly Westmoreland, Part-Time Election Clerk

Others in Attendance: None

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lester called the meeting to order at approximately 5:05 p.m. with Chairman Lester and Member Watts present. (Member Hicks had informed the Board that he would arrive late.)

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Watts made motion to approve the September 24, 2013 Agenda; Chairman Lester seconded the motion. **Motion carried 2-0.**

C. HEARING

1. DECEASED VOTERS

Election Officer Crosby presented the list of the cancelled deceased voters to the Board for approval. Officer Crosby explained this list is generated from the Probate Report of Fayette County. Chairman Lester made motion to approve the list of Deceased Voters; Member Watts seconded the motion. **Motion carried 2-0.**

2. FELONS

Election Officer Crosby presented the list of cancelled and deleted felons from the Elections List to the Board for approval. Officer Crosby explained to the Board how this

information is generated from the Fayette County Court System. Chairman Lester made motion to approve the list of felons. Member Watts seconded the motion. **Motion carried 2-0.**

D. OLD BUSINESS

3. APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING BOARD MINUTES:

AUGUST 27, 2013 (AUGUST)

Member Watts asked that one item be amended on these minutes as follows: under the heading Hearing, Challenged Voters, Item 3, the wording needs to be clarified. The sentence reads “Mr. Steele registered at an address in the County but was informed by the resident at that address that he did not live there”. The words “our office” should be inserted. It was agreed that the sentence should read “Mr. Steele registered at an address in the County but our office was informed by the resident at that address that he did not live there”.

Member Watts made motion to approve the August 27, 2013 Minutes with the stipulation that Item 3 be amended. Chairman Lester seconded the motion. **Motion carried 2-0.**

E. NEW BUSINESS

4. REPORT OF NEW VR SYSTEM

Supervisor Sawyer updated the Board about issues that are being addressed with the new ElectionNet system. Supervisor Sawyer gave the Board information about a meeting he and members of his staff attended at DeKalb Board of Elections regarding issues with the new system. This office converted to the new system in April of this year. Plans are underway for auditing of the new system to make sure we don't have duplicates. Resolutions have been made but others are still in process. The focus is getting ready for the upcoming election utilizing the new ElectioNet system.

Supervisor Sawyer asked Officer Crosby to share her concerns with the new system. She gave overview of how new voters are processed and the challenge of making sure we don't have duplicate voters in other counties. The main concern is that every voter in the “Legacy” system got moved over to the new system. She indicated that another concern is redistricting issues.

Supervisor Sawyer explained to the Board that redistricting issues were a concern and briefed the Board as to how Fulton County has been experiencing issues with streets

being correctly districted. He told the Board he will keep them posted as to what is going on with this issue.

Supervisor Sawyer also briefed the Board saying next year's election will most likely start in May 2014 for primaries instead of July because the Department of Justice sued the Secretary of State last year and won because of the short time between the primary and the run-off. There was not enough time for the UOCAVA or Military to get ballots or to return the ballots. The calendar is not definitively set yet but it will most likely begin in May 2014. The Legislature will make these decisions.

5. QUALIFIED CANDIDATES – 2013 ELECTIONS

A list of qualified candidates was provided to the Board and Supervisor Sawyer went over the list with the Board. He explained to the Board that the City of Fayetteville had three (3) people to qualify for Posts 3, 4, and 5 with no opposition so they will not have an election. The City of Brooks had Mayor and Council Posts 1 and 2 qualify with no opposition and they will not have an election. Peachtree City has Mayor and Council Posts 2, 3, and 4 qualify with opposition and they will have an election. The Town of Tyrone has Council Posts 3 and 4 qualify with opposition and they will have an election. Woolsey will have an election for "Sunday Sale of Alcohol". He informed the Board that ballots were ordered today (September 24, 2013). He stated December 3, 2013 will be the date for a run-off in this election.

6. POLL WORKERS/TRAINING FOR NOVEMBER 5, 2013 ELECTION

Supervisor Sawyer told the Board a list of poll workers slated for the November 5, 2013 Election will be provided at next month's Board meeting for their approval. He stated all 36 precincts will be open for this election as well as 14 municipal precincts open for the cities. A list of dates was provided to the Board of upcoming events related to the election, which included early voting dates, equipment testing, poll worker and elections clerk training.

He further told the Board that a notice will be provided to the local newspaper of the starting date for testing of voting equipment which is open to the public. Advanced voting will begin in our office October 14 through November 1, 2014. Advanced voting in Peachtree City and Tyrone will begin October 21 through November 1, 2014.

7. VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE – LARRIS J. MARKS

Supervisor Sawyer updated the Board regarding this voter registration drive to be conducted by Ms. Larris J. Marks. Election Officer Crosby has been invited to speak to a group luncheon at Ms. Marks' home to provide training information regarding voter registration for the workers on this private entity voter registration drive.

A copy of the letter from Deputy Superintendent, Sam Sweat, Fayette County Board of Education to Ms. Marks approving dates for this voter registration drive to be conducted at all the Fayette County High Schools in October, 2013 was provided to the Board. Officer Crosby will get the specific dates and times so this can be provided to the newspaper to publish. It was pointed out that this drive will be after the October 7, 2013 deadline to be registered to vote for the November 5, 2013 election. It was noted that typically there is only one voter registration drive held in the Spring at the high schools and the Knights of Columbus does that drive.

Chairman Lester made motion to approve this private entity voter registration drive to be held by Ms. Larris Marks. Member Watts seconded the motion. **Motion carried 2-0.**

8. KSU MEETING ISSUES

Supervisor Sawyer spoke briefly to the Board regarding issues related to KSU and ElectionNet. A list of voter registration issues was provided to the Board to peruse that was sent to him from Maxine Daniels, Director of DeKalb County Registration & Elections. He said these issues are being worked on by the Secretary of State Board of Elections in order to be ready for the October 14, 2013 date to begin advanced voting.

F. OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was none.

H. OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

There was none.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Member Watts moved to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:40 p.m. Chairman Lester seconded. **Motion carried 2-0.**

The next Board meeting will be October 22, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.