

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

MINUTES

January 27, 2015

Board Members Present: Marilyn Watts, Chairman
Darryl Hicks
Addison Lester

Staff Present: Tom Sawyer, Elections Supervisor
Leigh Combs, Elections Officer
Beverly Westmoreland, Elections Clerk

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Watts called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 p.m.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Lester made the motion to approve the agenda with one correction under item F-1, Old Business. The date should be December 18, 2014 for the Special Called Meeting Minutes instead of December 4, 2014. Member Hicks seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

C. HEARING – DECEASED FAYETTE COUNTY VOTERS

D. HEARING – FELON FAYETTE COUNTY VOTERS

E. HEARING – MOVED OUT OF STATE VOTERS

Supervisor Sawyer told the Board that we are excited to have Leigh Combs join the office as Elections Officer. The Board welcomed Leigh to her new position.

Elections Officer Combs presented the list of deleted Fayette County Deceased, Felon, and Moved-Out-Of State Voters.

The Board perused the lists. Member Lester made motion to approve all of these lists of deceased, felon, and moved-out-of-state voters; Member Hicks seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

F. OLD BUSINESS

1. APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING BOARD MINUTES – SPECIAL CALLED MEETING: (DECEMBER 18, 2014)

Member Hicks made motion to approve the minutes of the Special Called Meeting on December 18, 2014. Member Lester seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

2. APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING BOARD MINUTES –SPECIAL CALLED MEETING: (DECEMBER 23, 2014)

Member Lester made motion to approve the minutes of the Special Called Meeting on December 23, 2014. Member Hicks seconded. **Motion carried.**

G. NEW BUSINESS

3. VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE

a. TRAINING

Supervisor Sawyer told the Board that training took place on January 8, 2014 for the Knights of Columbus. He said it was a very successful voter registration drive.

b. VOTER REGISTRATION RESULTS TO DATE

Supervisor Sawyer gave a report to the Board that the Knights of Columbus had registered 69 new voters with their registration drive in the County high schools during January.

Chairman Watts asked Supervisor Sawyer to write a letter to this organization expressing the appreciation of the Elections Office for their contributions in this effort and send a copy of the letter to the newspaper. Supervisor Sawyer agreed to that request.

4. HB 26

Supervisor Sawyer gave each of the Board members a copy of an email he had received from State Representative Roger Bruce regarding the issue/proposal for House Bill 26, whereby Georgia voters could vote in any county on election day.

The Board briefly discussed the logistics of implementing this proposal. Chairman Watts said that since there are three weeks of early voting and the

ability to vote by mail making voting so convenient, there would be no reason to use this proposal.

There was brief discussion about the proposal of Sunday voting being considered by the Legislature. It was agreed amongst the Board, that there does need to be consistency within the State on this issue.

5. EVALUATIONS

Supervisor Sawyer explained to the Board that he had done employee evaluations on Elections Clerk, Karen Hunter and Elections Officer, April Crosby. Chairman Watts asked if she could see those evaluations and Supervisor Sawyer agreed to her request. Member Hicks reminded the Board that those evaluations are to be kept confidential.

6. PRELIMINARY BUDGET CALENDAR

Supervisor Sawyer passed out information to the Board about the Budget Calendar. He further stated that he will put together the budget for their approval on February 24, 2015 or by March 24, 2015.

7. BALOTAR

a. PURCHASE PROPOSAL QUOTE – W/O FOLDER

b. PURCHASE PROPOSAL QUOTE – W / FOLDER

Supervisor Sawyer gave the Board members a copy of the quote which had been emailed to the Board of Elections on the above listed items (a) and (b). The Purchase Proposal Quote was submitted to him by Election Systems & Software.

Member Lester asked Supervisor Sawyer to explain the benefit of this Balotar System. Supervisor Sawyer said that for each election, there were approximately 120 ballot styles to be used in the 36 different precincts that must be ordered, because we are required to order by the precinct. Having the Balotar System would mean that we would not have to order ballots. We could print the ballots when requested. He said that since we only have municipal elections this year, it would be a good time to implement this system.

Discussion ensued regarding the system and the benefit it would be to the Elections Office. The ability to print the ballots on an as needed basis would be very cost effective. The Board members carefully looked at the proposals and there was discussion as to the benefits of using the system without a folder and with a folder.

Member Lester asked how much is spent on ballots. Supervisor Sawyer will do more research on this as he knows there were ballots left over and destroyed after the last election. There would be no waste with the Balotar system. He said the upcoming municipal elections would be a good time to begin using that technology.

Member Lester asked if this could be purchased in this year's budget. Supervisor Sawyer will check to see if this is feasible.

c. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Board continued dialogue on the license and support policy that Election Systems & Software had in their quote. Also the subject of maintenance fees with a leased system versus purchasing the system was discussed. Supervisor Sawyer's recommendation was to purchase the system.

d. IN-PERSON DEMONSTRATION – 1ST WEEK OF APRIL

Supervisor Sawyer told the Board that an in-person demonstration is planned during April and the Board members would have a chance to be involved in a more in-depth look at how this system operates. He mentioned that several counties in Georgia already have the Balotar system in place.

8. GEOA CONFERENCE – MAY 3, 2015 – MARRIOTT RIVERFRONT

Supervisor Sawyer told the Board he had been to one of the planning meetings for the GEOA Conference and he will forward the agenda to them that he received at the planning meeting. All members of the Board said they wanted to attend. Supervisor Sawyer will make the reservations for this conference at the Marriott Riverfront in Savannah, GA as soon as the rooms are opened up for reservations. We will try and get us all rooms there at the Marriott. The plans are for all members of the staff to attend if possible.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

Member Lester said he had received a phone call from one of the poll managers from the November 4, 2014 election. The poll manager was of the opinion that the training received was incomplete. The new policy that was implemented of returning the memory cards early by an assistant manager and a clerk was not made clear. Supervisor Sawyer said that he had stressed that if returning those cards earlier was a problem, to bring them back to the office as had previously been done. Member Lester said more clarity was needed in making sure the poll managers and workers understand procedure directions. It was agreed that this new procedure had worked really well on election evening and did speed the process. Member Lester said this would be a good year to emphasize these kinds of issues during training and letting the poll managers have some input during the training sessions. Supervisor Sawyer said he will keep that in mind for future training.

I. OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Member Lester asked about the status of the court date regarding the district voting issue. Supervisor Sawyer said this issue will go back to bench trial and no date has been set.

Supervisor Sawyer said he does not have the minutes for the Executive Session held on December 23, 2014 but will have them ready soon.

Chairman Watts reminded Supervisor Sawyer that the minutes of this meeting should be done by February 10, 2015. She also stated that the Agenda for the February meeting must be posted no later than the Friday before the meeting on February 24, 2015 meeting.

At approximately 5:55 p.m., Chairman Watts stated the Board would need to go into Executive Session to discuss another matter. Member Lester made the motion to go into Executive Session; Member Hicks seconded. Motion carried.

At approximately 6:00 p.m., the Board came out of Executive Session.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Member _____ made motion to adjourn; Member _____ seconded.
Motion carried.

The next Board meeting (February) is scheduled for February 24, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.