

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

MINUTES

January 26, 2016

Board Members Present: Marilyn Watts, Chairman
Addison Lester

Staff Present: Tom Sawyer, Elections Supervisor
Leigh Combs, Elections Officer
April Crosby, Elections Officer
Beverly Westmoreland, Part-time Elections Clerk

Others in Attendance: Tony Parrot
Lane Watts

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Watts called the regularly scheduled Board of Elections meeting on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 to order at approximately 5:00 p.m. Chairman Watts and Member Lester were present; Member Hicks was absent.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Watts said the first item was the approval of the agenda. Member Lester made the motion to approve the agenda. Chairman Watts seconded the motion.
Motion carried.

C. HEARING

1. DECEASED ELECTORS

Elections Officer Combs presented the list of deceased Fayette County voters for November and December 2015 and January 2016. Member Lester made the motion to approve the list of cancelled deceased Fayette County voters. Chairman Watts seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

2. FELON ELECTORS

Elections Officer Combs presented the list of felon Fayette County voters for November and December 2015 and January 2016. Member Lester made the motion to approve the list of cancelled felon Fayette County voters. Chairman Watts seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

D. OLD BUSINESS

3. APPROVE MINUTES – OCTOBER 27, 2015

Supervisor Sawyer presented the October 27, 2015 minutes to the Board. After perusal by the Board, Member Lester made the motion to approve the minutes as presented and Chairman Watts seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Member Lester asked Supervisor Sawyer if he had followed up with the Building and Grounds Department regarding the storage concerns brought up at the October 27, 2015 meeting regarding the condition of the trailer on McDonough Road. Supervisor Sawyer said that he had discussed these issues with the Building and Grounds Department and was advised that the building is secure and there are no water leakage problems. He further said he had recently been in the trailer when it was raining and saw no issues regarding water coming in around the door.

E. NEW BUSINESS

4. FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS MEETING SCHEDULE

Supervisor Sawyer gave the Board members a list of the Board of Elections 2016 meeting schedule for their information.

**5. REVIEW OF POLL WORKERS FOR THE MARCH 1, 2016
PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY & SPECIAL ELECTION**

Officer Crosby presented the Board members a current list of poll workers scheduled to work the March 1, 2016 Presidential Preference Primary.

Chairman Watts said that JoAnn Bailey had asked for an additional male worker at her precinct (Europe #3) and she noticed this was not indicated at her precinct. Some discussion followed and Supervisor Sawyer said this issue would be worked out by possibly moving a male worker from another precinct.

At this point, Supervisor Sawyer informed the Board of a recent conflict with using the Board of Commissioners Public Meeting Room for a poll worker training class scheduled for January 28, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. The Elections Office had reserved this time in advance but the Board of Commissioners had scheduled another meeting at 3:00. Subsequently, arrangements were made to hold the class at the Fayette County Library and attendees would be notified.

There was further discussion regarding the adequacy of the video equipment at the library that was necessary for training purposes. The training make-up class scheduled for February 2, 2016 will be held in the Commissioner's Public Meeting Room as scheduled.

Member Lester then made the motion to approve the list of poll workers as presented with the additional effort to try to find an additional male poll worker for Precinct #3 and Chairman Watts seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

6. SECURITY AT POLLING LOCATIONS TO BE PROVIDED BY SHERIFF BARRY BABB

Supervisor Sawyer told the Board members that he had spoken with Sheriff Barry Babb regarding security at the polling locations. He said that Sheriff Babb was very much aware of the code section, under his code, that states his office is responsible for security at the polling locations. He further said that he will ask Sheriff Babb to attend the next scheduled Board of Elections meeting on February 23, 2016 so that the Board would have a chance to have input into the security needs for the upcoming elections. Supervisor Sawyer said that he is stressing the security be available for two of the schools (Braelinn Elementary and Oak Grove Elementary) until we can downsize and no longer be using these schools as polling places.

There was further discussion regarding the need for security at precincts that are held at schools and churches. Chairman Watts said that Clayton County has had security at every one of their precincts for years. Chairman Watts asked Supervisor Sawyer to stress and make clear to poll managers and workers the rules regarding who can enter a polling site and he agreed to do this.

Chairman Watts said the plans are to do poll watcher training at one time to make sure all poll watchers understand what they can and cannot do at the precinct locations.

Chairman Watts and Member Lester agreed that it would be good to have Sheriff Babb attend the next meeting, if possible, but it is not necessary to have Dr. Barrow from the Board of Education attend a meeting at this point.

Chairman Watts asked if anyone knew if there were security guards with guns at any of the schools. Some discussion followed regarding how many resource officers are stationed at area schools and Tony Parrot said he knew they were at the high schools. It is unclear whether resource officers are located at all the schools in the County.

7. VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE – FAYETTEVILLE CAMPUS FOR GEORGIA MILITARY COLLEGE

Supervisor Sawyer informed the Board that the Elections office had held a voter registration drive at the Fayetteville Campus for the Georgia Military College at the request of the Dean of Students. Officer Combs gave the Board a synopsis of the result of that drive held on January 19 and 20, 2016. Forty-four voter applications were collected during this voter registration drive (14 of which were registrations belonging to surrounding counties). It was considered a successful drive.

F. OTHER BUSINESS

Supervisor Sawyer told the Board that he had spoken with Tom Illingworth with the Knights of Columbus regarding their plans to hold an upcoming voter registration drive at the area high schools in April. He will inform the Board when definite dates are set for this drive. He said the plans are for this organization to come in on February 23, 2015 for training and then be sworn in about the time the February Board of Elections meeting starts.

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tony Parrot said he had a question. He asked about the special meeting that was held recently on Friday, January 15, 2016 and asked why it was not posted. Supervisor Sawyer said it was advertised in the local newspaper and proper notification had been added to the Fayette County website as well as being posted on the door of the Elections Office. Supervisor Sawyer said there were people from the public who had attended. Chairman Watts said the special called meeting was for the purpose of following up on what the Commissioners and the Board of Education had done regarding the litigation with the NAACP.

H. OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Supervisor Sawyer passed out copies of sample ballots and copies of the State Elections and Voter Registration calendar for 2016 for their information. He also provided the Board with copies of the schedule for elections being held in 2016, and the schedule for advanced voting for the March 1, 2016 Presidential Preference Primary. He pointed out that advance voting begins February 1, 2016 and ends February 26, 2016 in the Elections Office. He said we will have a Saturday open for advance voting in the Elections Office on February 20, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. He said advance voting will open up February 15, 2016 through February 26, 2016 at the Peachtree City Library and the Tyrone Town Hall.

He told the Board that for future elections this year, all three of the aforementioned locations will be open for all three weeks due to more people voting, especially for November.

Chairman Watts asked if there were any other items for consideration and there were none.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Watts announced the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:40 p.m.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.