

DRAFT
FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
AND VOTER REGISTRATION

MINUTES

February 23, 2016

Board Members Present: Darryl Hicks, Chairman
Addison Lester
Aaron Wright

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

Others in Attendance: Greg Dunn
Bill Ewing
Tony Parrot
Marilyn Watts

Supervisor Sawyer introduced Aaron Wright as the newly appointed member of the Board. Member Wright was appointed by the Fayette County Republican Party and was previously sworn in by the Fayette County Commissioners. Member Wright said that he was glad to be a member of the team and he was open to learning. He complimented Marilyn Watts for her contributions to the Elections Board and said she would be a trusted and key advisor.

Officer Combs then presented former Chairman of the Board of Elections, Marilyn Watts a plant. The staff expressed their appreciation for her service and the value she has brought to the Elections Office for many years.

Supervisor Sawyer then called the meeting to order.

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Lester made the motion to amend the agenda to add the item of **Election of a Chairman** to the Board of Elections. Member Wright seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Member Lester then made the motion to nominate Member Darryl Hicks as Chairman. Member Hicks then accepted the nomination to serve as Chairman. Member Wright seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

B. HEARING

1. DECEASED ELECTORS

Elections Officer Combs presented the list of deceased Fayette County voters for January, 2016. Member Lester made the motion to approve the list of cancelled deceased Fayette County voters. Chairman Hicks seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

2. FELON ELECTORS

Elections Officer Combs presented the list of felons in Fayette County for January, 2016. Member Lester made the motion to approve the list of cancelled felon Fayette County voters. Chairman Hicks seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

C. OLD BUSINESS

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a. January 15, 2016

Chairman Hicks made the motion to approve the January 15, 2016 minutes with the exception and correction to Item D, paragraph 3. He said at the end of the paragraph, the sentence should end with the word “defendants” and remove the words “with the plaintiffs”. Member Lester seconded the motion. Member Wright abstained from voting since he was not a member of the Board when that meeting took place. **Motion carried.**

b. January 26, 2016

Chairman Hicks recommended that the minutes from January 26, 2016 be accepted for information purposes only since he was the only Board Member in attendance that could vote and that would not constitute a quorum. Member Lester had listened in on the meeting via a conference call, and therefore, could not vote since he did not actually attend the meeting in person.

At this point Captain Eubanks of the Fayette County Sheriff’s Office entered the meeting. Supervisor Sawyer had asked for a representative from the Sheriff’s Office

to attend this meeting to update the Board regarding planned security measures for the upcoming elections in 2016. The Board had discussed in previous meetings the need for additional security at several of the school and church locations. Supervisor Sawyer asked Captain Eubanks to speak to the Board and guests regarding plans for security.

Captain Eubanks brought a poster board that will be displayed at the precincts providing information relating to the Official Code of Georgia Annotated 15-16-10 (a) (3) that describes the duties of the sheriff at polling locations. He said the plans are for security to be provided the entire 12 hours on election day. The Board thanked Captain Eubanks for their help and contributions to safety at the school and church locations.

4. BYLAWS – FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND VOTER REGISTRATION

Chairman Hicks asked the Board if they had any questions.

Member Wright said he did not have a question but wanted to make a comment. He cited Georgia Election Code Annotated, Subpart 2, 21-2-40. He suggested that the Board approve the Bylaws with the exception of Paragraph 3. Member Lester said if that was the case, then there would be no change in the bylaws. There was some discussion amongst the Board members regarding Board members not endorsing candidates.

Chairman Hicks said he is in favor of consulting Dennis Davenport on this issue and that the issue be brought back up at the next Board meeting. No action taken.

D. NEW BUSINESS

5. MARCH 1, 2016 PPP – SEC PRIMARY ELECTION

a. ELECTION RESULTS TO DATE

Supervisor Sawyer asked Officer Crosby to give a report on election results, thus far. Officer Crosby told the Board that 2,486 in person votes have been cast. She further said that 400 absentee ballots have been mailed out and 178 of those have now been received.

b. POLL WORKERS

Member Lester asked if a man had been provided for Precinct #3 as per the request at the last Board meeting. Officer Crosby said that position had been filled.

c. BOARD MEETS TO CERTIFY ELECTION – FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2016, 5:00 P.M.

After some discussion, the Board agreed to meet at 6:00 p.m. instead of 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 4, 2016 for the purpose of certifying the election.

6. CANDIDATE ACADEMY – TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2016

Supervisor Sawyer gave a brief report that all had gone well with this educational class for potential candidates.

7. VOTER REGISTRATION TRAINING – KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2016

April 11 and 12	Fayette County High School
April 14 and 15	Sandy Creek High School
April 18 and 19	McIntosh High School
April 21 and 22	Starr’s Mill High School
April 25 and 26	Whitewater High School

Supervisor Sawyer gave a positive report of how the training had gone for the Knights of Columbus which had taken place just prior to this Board meeting. Member Lester had sworn them in and Supervisor Sawyer said they are now certified.

8. GEORGIA STATE ELECTION PUBLIC MEETING WEDNESDAY – MARCH 23, 2016 10:00 A.M. PROFESSIONAL LICENSING BUILDING 237 COLISEUM DRIVE, ROOM B MACON, GEORGIA 31217

Supervisor Sawyer explained the purpose of these meetings and said they are very informative. He asked if anyone wanted to attend to let him know.

E. OTHER BUSINESS

Member Lester asked if there was any feedback on poll worker training and there was some discussion about the training that had already taken place.

Member Lester asked about the redistricting settlement and what the window of time would be to reduce the number of precincts. Supervisor Sawyer said possibly in June after a run-off and there was brief discussion regarding this issue. He further said that the district voting issue would be dealt with first.

Chairman Hicks asked for a time line from the staff of getting these issues resolved.

Member Wright said that the Fayette County website needs to be updated with Board of Election Meeting Minutes. Supervisor Sawyer agreed to transfer those minutes.

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tony Parrot asked if everyone attending these Board of Elections meetings could have a copy of the agenda. Supervisor Sawyer agreed to make these available.

G. OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

There were no other items for consideration

H. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Hicks said the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:00 p.m.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.