

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

*July 23, 2013
5:00 p.m.*

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

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

Others in Attendance: Dennis Davenport, Interim Attorney for Fayette Co.
Tony Parrot

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lester called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with all Board members present.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Lester asked if there were any questions about the agenda since it was a little different than what Supervisor Sawyer had emailed to the Board. There were no questions. Member Watts made motion to approve the July 23, 2013 Board of Election Meeting Agenda and Member Hicks seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

(Since the next item on the agenda was Item C, Report from Dennis Davenport, Chairman Lester said it would be skipped because Mr. Davenport was detained temporarily from joining the meeting.)

D. HEARING

1. Deceased Voters

Election Officer Crosby presented the lists of cancelled deceased voters and the cancelled felon voters to the Board for approval. She explained to the Board how she receives the information from Vital Records and compares it to our records to make sure it is a match.

After perusing the lists of deceased electors, Chairman Lester made motion to approve the list of deceased voters and Member Watts seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

2. Felon Voters

Supervisor Sawyer mentioned that originally he had left the felons off the agenda because there were only 2 voters on the felon list and there was a question as to the accuracy of the information.

Member Hicks made the motion to approve list of felons; Member Watts seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

3. Moved Out of State

Supervisor Sawyer also explained to the Board why No. 3 “Moved Out of State” item was on the agenda. This information was received from the Secretary of State in order to update our voting records. It was put on the agenda so the Board could see how our office obtains this information.

Officer Crosby explained to the Board the office procedures as mandated by the State of Georgia in handling “Moved Out of State” voters. She stated we must have a signature from the voter in order to cancel a voter’s registration. She told the Board that a hearing does not have to be held on these voters but wanted the Board to better understand because of the letter that had been received on this issue. Officer Crosby also explained to the Board that confirmations had been sent to voters asking for their response so that their voting records could be update.

Supervisor Sawyer told the Board that these “Moved Out of State” voters will probably not be presented again. This was to let the Board know how these are handled.

Member Hicks moved to approve the list of “Moved Out of State” voters and Member Watts seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

C. Report from Dennis Davenport, Interim County Attorney

Attorney Davenport updated the Board on the litigation between the Fayette County Republican Party, Member Watts, and the Board of Commissioners. The Fayette County Republican Party has withdrawn their nomination for a Board Member to replace Member Watts. This matter has been resolved.

E. OLD BUSINESS

4. Approval of the June 25, 2013 (June) Board Minutes

Member Hicks made a motion to approve the Board of Elections Meeting Minutes for June 25, 2013. Member Watts seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

5. VRAG Conference to be held August 11-14, 2013 at Classic Center in Athens, GA

Supervisor Sawyer gave update on plans for the accommodations. Lodging reservations for all attending will be at The Georgia Game Day Center. A welcome reception will be held by the Vendors on Sunday afternoon. Monday evening, August 12, the conference banquet is being hosted by Secretary of State Brian Kemp at his farm in Athens.

Supervisor Sawyer told the Board that the VRAG and the GEOA conference will be combined into one conference in 2014 and will be held in Augusta, GA.

F. NEW BUSINESS

6. Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with Brooks

Chairman Lester made the motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Brooks. Member Hicks seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

7. Advanced Ballot Solutions

- Purchase Proposal Quote – With Folder
- Purchase Proposal Quote – Without Folder

Supervisor Sawyer explained to the Board that he has been given a quote of \$21,165.00 from Advanced Ballot Solutions which included the Folder, which he explained meant the folding of the ballots. (Information with item description from Advanced Ballot Solutions was included in information given to the Board for their perusal.) The cost is

.45 cents per ballot. Supervisor Sawyer said the benefit of this is that you only pay for the ballots that are used.

8. TRUE THE VOTE

Supervisor Sawyer read a portion of a letter he had received from the organization called “True the Vote” accusing Fayette County of being in violation of Section 8 of the National Voter Registration Act. The letter stated they had done a comparison between the U.S. Census Bureau and the Election Assistance Commission. Supervisor Sawyer said that he had contacted Mr. Bill Boehm with the Election Assistance Commission in Washington, DC, and he recommended that a response letter be written back asking for an explanation of what violation had been committed. Supervisor Sawyer has done that and he wanted to make the Board aware of this correspondence and how it is being handled thus far.

Officer Crosby and Supervisor Sawyer explained to the Board that 3,000 confirmation notices have recently been mailed to voters who have not voted in 2 General Elections in an attempt to keep our Voter Registration Database accurate. As these responses are received back, we are able to update voting records. There was further discussion of this matter.

9. APPROVAL SPECIAL ELECTIONS

- **STORMWATER SPLOST**

Supervisor Sawyer told the Board that Fayette County Administrator, Steve Rapson, had notified him that a Special Called Meeting has been scheduled for September 5, 2013 for the Board of Commissioners to approve of the Core Infrastructure SPLOST Resolution for STORMWATER. This will be a county-wide SPLOST.

Attorney Davenport explained to the Board about the intergovernmental agreements that distributes the revenue should the SPLOST pass. Supervisor Sawyer said we are not getting the preclearance because of the changes that occurred in June, and there is no need for further approval for Special Elections from Justice. Attorney Davenport gave further information to the Board relating to the preclearance issue.

- **ANOTHER QUESTION “RELATING TO SUNDAY SALES OF ALCOHOL FOR ON-PREMISES CONSUMPTION BUSINESSES”**

Attorney Davenport commented on the “On-Premises Consumption” Issue and said it is not official yet but it will be official soon. He has generated a memo to the Board of Commissioners and the issue will probably be taken up at a meeting soon. There never was a referendum held to authorize Sunday Sales for On-Premises Consumption; there was for package sales but not for on-premises consumption. He stated that we have three different businesses that have Sunday Sales for On-Premise Consumption. There is no legal authority to issue permits.

- **SUNDAY SALE OF PACKAGE ALCOHOL – TOWN OF WOOLSEY**

Supervisor Sawyer made reference to the copy of the Resolution from the Town of Woolsey to authorize a referendum to allow package sales on Sundays by Retailers of Package Malt Beverages and Wine. Supervisor Sawyer explained that because there was a tie when this was presented to the voters in the last election, it will again be presented on the ballot for the residents of Woolsey in the November 2013 election.

Supervisor Sawyer asked for approval for the Special Elections for the aforementioned three items to be presented on the ballots for the November 5, 2013 Election. Member Watts made motion to approve the three Special Election items to be put on the ballots in November. Member Hicks seconded. **Motion carried 3-0.**

10. ELECTION CALENDAR – 2013 GENERAL ELECTION

Supervisor Sawyer briefly went over the Election Calendar for 2013 to be held November 5, 2013. He told the Board that qualifying will be August 26 – 30, 2013 for the upcoming municipal elections. Our office will be doing the qualifying for Brooks and Woolsey. Fayetteville, Peachtree City, and Tyrone will do their own qualifying.

G. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Lester asked if there was any other business to discuss. There were none.

H. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Lester asked if there were any comments. There were none.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Member Watts made a motion to adjourn at approximately 5:35 p.m. and Member Hicks seconded. The **motion carried 3-0.**

The next Board meeting is scheduled for August 27, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.