

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

**MINUTES**

*January 30, 2014*

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

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

**Others in Attendance:** Tony Parrott

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**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Lester called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 p.m. All Board Members were present.

**B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Member Watts made motion to approve the January 30, 2014 Agenda; Member Hicks seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

**C. HEARING**

**1. DECEASED VOTERS**

Supervisor Sawyer presented the list of the cancelled deceased voters to the Board for approval. After perusal of the list, Chairman Lester made motion to approve the list of deceased voters. Member Hicks seconded. **Motion carried.**

**2. FELONS**

Supervisor Sawyer presented the list of cancelled and deleted felons from the Elections List to the Board for approval. Member Hicks made motion to approve the list of cancelled felons and Member Watts seconded. **Motion carried.**

**D. MEETING WITH COUNTY ATTORNEY – DENNIS DAVENPORT**

Dennis Davenport was not in attendance so this item was postponed.

**3. PROPOSED MAPS – DISTRICT VOTING**

Supervisor Sawyer gave the Board a copy of the proposed new districting map for Fayette County. A hearing date of **February 18th** is when the judge will issue his order on this map. They discussed the elected officials who are up for re-election. The proposed plan is for the districts to be the same for the Fayette County Board of Education and the Fayette County Commission which should cut down on confusion about the districts.

There was further discussion about these changes being implemented into the system in time for qualifying which will begin on Monday, March 3, 2014 and end on Friday, March 7, 2014. Member Watts mentioned that the timing of this does not give 30 days prior to qualifying. It only gives 2 weeks to implement.

**4. SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2014, 4:00 P.M.**

Supervisor Sawyer told the Board that originally the Board of Commissioners was to have met on January 28, 2014 but due to the snow, the meeting was rescheduled for February 4, 2014. The topic will be redistricting. Decisions potentially will be made concerning this change to the districts in Fayette County.

There was discussion that if and when this ruling is made, new precinct cards will be mailed to the voters. Chairman Lester pointed out that there are approximately 9 precincts that will be split if this redistricting takes place. Supervisor Sawyer told the Board that the project of reducing the number of precincts in the County may need to be put on hold for this time.

There was some discussion about what can be done in advance assuming the new map is approved. Supervisor Sawyer said he is working on this and trying to get in touch with the State to see what can be done.

The Board planned to re-visit this topic when Dennis Davenport came in.

**E. OLD BUSINESS**

**5. APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING BOARD MINUTES:**

**NOVEMBER 26, 2013 (NOVEMBER)**

Member Hicks made a comment about the perception issue of Item E because it had been brought to his attention. He brought it before the Board because it was mentioned to him.

Supervisor Sawyer said his wife, Gail Sawyer, had returned the check for her wages for working back to the County so there would not be any negative perception.

Member Hicks made motion to approve the November 26, 2013 minutes. Chairman Lester seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

## **6. COMBINED CONFERENCE – GEOA/VRAG – MARCH 30 – APRIL 2, 2014**

- **REGISTRATION TO START FEBRUARY 3, 2014**

Supervisor Sawyer gave the Board information regarding the Combined Conference to be held in Augusta, GA. This is the first time these two conferences have been combined so there will only be one conference this year. Supervisor Sawyer gave a hand-out outlining the topics for this conference. He said he will be making reservations for 8 people to attend. Plans are to leave for this conference on Sunday, March 30.

## **F. NEW BUSINESS**

### **7. FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – PRESS RELEASE – ONE OPEN POSITION ON THE FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

#### **1. Appointment of Addison Lester will expire on January 31, 2014.**

Supervisor Sawyer told the Board that Commissioners Steve Brown and Randy Ognio will be the screening committee for this position. All applications for this position must be returned to Floyd Jones, the County Clerk, by Friday, February 14, 2014. Chairman Lester said he plans to re-apply for his position on the Board of Elections.

#### **2. Governor's appointment of the Honorable Jason B. Thompson to Judge, State Court of Fayette County to expire December 31, 2014.**

Supervisor Sawyer explained to the Board about Jason Thompson's appointment being made to complete the term of Carla McMillan and this is why he will be running for election to reclaim his seat.

### **8. GEORGIA STATE ELECTION BOARD WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2014 – 9:30 A.M. – PROFESSIONAL LICENSING BUILDING, EXAM ROOM B, 237 COLSEUM DRIVE, MACON, GA 31217**

Supervisor Sawyer gave the Board information concerning this State Election Board Meeting which they are welcome to attend.

## **9. PASSAGE OF HB 310**

There was discussion about how this House Bill 310 will affect the dates of the state and local election calendars for 2014. There has to be the 45 days before an election in order to get the UOCAVA ballots mailed out and returned for federal elections. This was an Ethics Bill put in last year's legislature and was redone. It has been signed by the Governor. It has changed the election dates for 2014.

Supervisor Sawyer mentioned that this office has now begun handling the Candidates' Personal Financial Disclosure and the Campaign Disclosure reports as of January 1, 2014.

## **10. APPROVAL TO HOLD A SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISOR ELECTION ON THE GENERAL BALLOT ON NOVEMBER 4, 2014. APPROVAL FOR ELECTION SUPERINTENDENT TO SIGN MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT.**

Discussion followed regarding this item. Qualifying will be March 3 – 7, 2014. Member Watts asked for further information regarding who they qualify with, the salary of this position and the term length. Supervisor Sawyer will find out more information and get back to the Board on this.

Member Hicks made motion to put this position of Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor on the General Election ballot. Member Watts seconded. **Motion carried.**

Supervisor Sawyer then had the Chairman of the Fayette County Board of elections sign the Memorandum of Agreement Between the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission and the Election Superintendent of Fayette County.

## **11. APPROVAL FOR THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS TO CONDUCT VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES AT THE 6 HIGH SCHOOLS IN FAYETTE COUNTY PER SCHEDULE ATTACHED – APRIL, 2014.**

Member Watts led discussion that approval of this voter registration drive be with the stipulation the Knights of Columbus hold their voter registration drive on or before April 21<sup>st</sup> in order to meet the voter registration deadline for the May 20, 2014 election. (Supervisor Sawyer will notify the Knight of Columbus of this request.)

## **12. APPROVAL FOR LARRIS J. MARKS TO CONDUCT VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES AT THE 5 HIGH SCHOOLS IN FAYETTE COUNTY PER SCHEDULE ATTACHED – SEPTEMBER, 2014.**

There was some discussion about future training for this drive. Since it was a 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Drive, there were some issues with handwriting and lack of information given. These issues will be addressed for future drives as to whether Ms. Marks desires to be a deputy registrar or to be able to do 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Drives since one cannot do both. Deputy Registrars are non-partisan and 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Registrars can be affiliated with a political party. Member Hicks suggested that this be clarified with Ms. Marks. Supervisor Sawyer said he will discuss this with Ms. Marks.

Chairman Lester made motion to approve the above voter registration drives for Item # 11 Knights of Columbus and for Item # 12 Larris Marks. Member Watts seconded. **Motion carried.**

### **13. APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL FOR EASYFILE**

Supervisor Sawyer said Steve Rapson, the County Administrator, was very agreeable for this expenditure. The Board had been given a copy of the sales proposal for EasyFile to approve. Member Watts said there is a discrepancy with installation cost from the original proposal. Supervisor Sawyer said he will clarify this with the vendor.

Supervisor Sawyer further updated the Board about candidates being able to file their Personal Financial Disclosures and their Campaign Contribution Disclosures Reports. Training will be planned for the 21 elected officials who will be able to use this system. The Board will be included on this training. He further stated the candidates have been notified to bring their reports here for this time and then after training, they will be able to file through this EasyFile system.

Chairman Lester made motion to approve this proposal subject to the clarification of installation costs. Member Watts seconded. **Motion carried.**

### **14. NOTICE OF QUALIFYING FEES – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Supervisor Sawyer had given the Board a copy of the “Notice of Established Qualifying Fees” to peruse.

There was some discussion of these fees; no action needed to be taken.

## **G. OTHER BUSINESS**

Supervisor Sawyer made the Board aware of a teleconference available here in the office called the 3T. It is held every third Thursday at 3:00 p.m. He gave the Board a print out of information pertaining to the last teleconference held on January 16, 2014. The main topic he wanted the Board to be aware of is the OLVR (On Line Voter Registration). This is currently being tested and it will be introduced to the public sometime in the near future. Officer Crosby explained to the Board that the plan is for the voter’s signature to be imported from the Georgia Driver’s License or Georgia ID to utilize this program.

Supervisor Sawyer had passed out information pertaining to EasyVote which he said is a part of the EasyFile software.

There was no other business to discuss.

**H. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was none.

**I. OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

There was none.

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Lester made motion to adjourn at approximately 6:05. Member Hicks seconded. **Motion carried.**

The next Board meeting will be February 25, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.