

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD
OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS
DEKALBCOUNTY
September 14, 2020**

The DeKalb board of Registration and elections convened to conduct a meeting on September 14, 2020 Via Teleconference (Zoom) while simultaneously available via live stream on DCTV's UStream channel ([https://video.ibm.com /channel/dctv-channel – 23](https://video.ibm.com/channel/dctv-channel-23)).

Present: Samuel Tillman, Chairman
Baoky Vu, Vice Chairman
Anthony Lewis, Board Member
Dele Lowman Smith, Board Member
Susan Motter, Board Member
Erica Hamilton, Director
Terry Phillips, Deputy County Attorney
Irene Vander Els, Assistant County Attorney
Shelly Momo, Assistant County Attorney

Mr. Tillman called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and the agenda was adopted.

1. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Hamilton asked that the vote on the minutes from the July 9th meeting and the August 21st meeting be deferred until the next meeting.

2. Comments from the Public

Mr. Tillman gave a statement regarding the protocol to be followed by the public to submit a comment to be acknowledged by the board during a board meeting. Public notice of this meeting was posted on the website, in the main office, and copy of the notice was provided to the Champion newspaper.

3. New Business

A) November 3, 2020 General election advanced voting time and locations.

Ms. Hamilton asked for a special called meeting the week of September 21st to finalize the advance voting locations and times. She suggested that the staff would recommend all sites to be open for early voting for 3 weeks. The proposed times to for locations will be Monday through Friday 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, Saturdays from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and Sundays from 12:00pm to 6:00 pm. These locations reviewed were locations thus far are in Dunwoody, Brookhaven, Chamblee, Tucker, Stonecrest, Lithonia, Ellenwood, Decatur and South DeKalb. Ms. Smith asked about extending the hours for early voting from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Mr. Tillman commented that he was not in favor of staying open one more hour because it would be taxing on the staff who are already working long hours.

A. Absentee by Mail Drop Box Status

Ms. Hamilton reports that an additional 6 drop boxes have been ordered. Those boxes will need to be keyed and wrapped and prepared for deployment. Boxes have been added at Toco Hills Library, Ellenwood Library and City of Decatur. The City of Avondale and the City of Clarkston have asked for drop boxes. The Board asked how difficult it would be to order an additional 11 drop boxes if we need them. Ms. Hamilton answered that she would have to contact Grainger to get an idea of how long it would take. Once it has been decided how many drop boxes are available the staff will work with IT to make sure we have cameras for these drop boxes have been installed. Mr. Tillman asked that the department review how many drop boxes the County has and how many more needed. Ms. Smith requested a map of drop box locations.

B. Working Group Update

Mr. Vu asked that the Communications Director find ways for the Board to more effectively field public inquiries. The request was made the board would like to have a weekly report on office concerns.

D. Election Planning Status Update

Ms. Smith suggested that The Board should agree to have a goal to count all votes by 7:00pm on the Friday following the election in November. Mr. Vu stated that he felt the staff was not adequately prepared for contingencies.

Ms. Smith asked for a motion that the board would ask the department to commit to have all votes cast by 7:00 p.m. November 3, 2020 be counted by Friday, November 6, 2020.

Mr. Vu seconded the motion. Ms. Hamilton stated that she feels confident that tabulation will be completed Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at the earliest. Ms. Smith withdrew her motion.

Mr. Tillman made a substitute motion that all votes will be counted by Tuesday, November 10, 2020. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. The vote was called and failed 3-2. Mr. Vu, Mrs. Smith and Ms. Motter voted against the motion.

Mrs. Smith asked for a motion that the Board identify the resources necessary to meet the November 6, 2020 deadline. Ms. Motter seconded the motion.

E. COVID – 19 Protections

Ms. Hamilton reported that 7 temporary staff members tested positive for COVID-19. Protocol is for staff to wear mask when in the building, continuous hand washing and temperature checks prior to entering the building. Staff has also been instructed to stay home if they are not feeling well and if they test positive for COVID-19 they must remain home until they receive negative results. Poll workers will be required to wear masks and face shields provided by the staff. Additional COVID -19 protocols will be added to ensure the safety of poll officials and voters.

B) Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Mereda Davis-Johnson suggested that poll workers work in shifts to prevent taxing the workers. ACLU members are willing to volunteer. Commissioner Davis- Johnson encouraged the Board to take advantage of human resources and monetary resources. She also stated that grant money from the Center for Civic Life was available and DeKalb County will also provide funding. Commissioner Davis-Johnson suggested having a hotline dedicated to answering voter questions.

C) Directors Report

Ms. Hamilton reported that an in-house call center has been established and staff is current with processing absentee ballot request. Thus far, the staff has processed 80,000 absentee ballot requests. The department will be using Runbeck to print and mail ballots under the State Contract. Poll worker training has begun for September election. She also announced that NBA Player Paul Millsap has offered to lease his gymnasium in Chamblee for advance voting. On October 5,2020 the department will host a know your voter's registration status event. She also informed the Board that October 24,2020 is National Vote Early Day.

D) Executive Session

Ms. Smith asked for a motion for the Board to go into Executive Session to consult with legal counsel regarding litigation. Ms. Motter seconded the motion. The question was called, and the motion passed unanimously. There were no votes taken while in executive session. A motion made by Mr. Vu to return to the regular meeting. The vote was taken, and the motion was carried.

E) Comments from the Board

Mr. Vu. Is thankful to the board.

There being no further business, Mr. Tillman adjourned the meeting.