Hart County Board of Registrars

February 14, 2014

11:00 A.M.

The following is a summary of the subjects discussed during the February 14, 2014 meeting:

Registrar John Stercho presided with Registrars Jane Kay, and Ronda Starks in attendance.

1. Approve Minutes of previous board

Registrar Jane Kay moved to approve the meeting minutes from the January board meeting. Registrar Stercho seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Absentee & Advance/In Person Voting for March 18TH Special Election

Registrar Stercho informed the BOR that the BOC approved the BOR’s request for funding the office for Absentee and Advance/In Person voting at $2700.00.

Registrar Stercho also distributed a calendar with duty assignments that included all special request by the BOR and adhered to the BOC demand that only three (3) staff the office on any one day for the entire election cycle.

The BOR raised numerous concerns and questions which the BOC may not have taken into consideration, regarding such limitations of staff. The BOR decided to approach the SOS’s office to seek clarification on poll worker versus Registrar roles during Absentee/Advance voting. Such areas as retrieving absentee ballots from the Post Office and personal breaks during operating hours were also discussed.

Due to the inclement weather, Deputy Registrar/Clerk Stephens was unable to attend the meeting, so a full discussion and walk through of the office stations and set-up for early voting was set aside. The BOR agreed that each individually would discuss with Deputy Registrar/Clerk Stephens on their normal work day before the official start of the absentee/advance voting.

3. Hart County High School Request

Registrar Stercho presented the BOR with a special request from the principal of the high school to send a representative with information of voter registration to present to the school’s seniors. Both Registrars Kay and Starks volunteered to arrange such an informal presentation and would discuss further with the school’s principal.

Various recommendations would be offered as to registering qualified seniors to include filling out actual paper applications, visiting the SOS website to retrieve an on-line application, and/or by visiting the BOR office after school hours to directly register in person – since the school dismissed a full two hours before the BOR office closes.

4. Open Discussion

Deputy Registrar/Clerk Stephens had requested leave time from the Chief Registrar. Due to the potential for a run-off election and the overlapping VRAG/GEOA conference, Registrar Stercho thought it best for the BOR to discuss her request and plan for office coverage during this time frame. It was decided that Chief Registrar Stercho should attend the conference, as it will be the first ever combined meeting of VRAG and the GEOA. Registrars Kay and Starks further both offered to cover the office for that week. Registrar Kay moved to approve Deputy Registrar/Clerk Stephens’ leave request. Registrar Starks seconded the motion. Leave request was approved unanimously.

The Hartwell Sun contacted Chief Registrar Stercho regarding its upcoming release of their Fact Book for edits to the BOR’s page. Registrar Stercho distributed to all board members of copy of the e-mail and proof page for any recommendations, corrections, or additions. He noted the paper’s deadline for edits was the following Wednesday, and that all recommendations would be needed turned in to him by next the next Tuesday to allow him time to compile the board’s response. Deputy Registrar/Clerk Stephens had already received an advance copy of the notification and had submitted her response.

The BOR made mention of a potential run-off for this Special Election due to the number of candidates involved. It was noted that both Deputy Clerk Stephens’ leave and the VRAG/GEOA conference could directly conflict with such a scenario. The board discussed contingencies plan and recommended revisiting this issue at a BOR meeting convened once the Election Superintendent had called the Special Election results. A tentative date of Friday, March 21st was set.

1. Adjournment

Registrar Starks moved to adjourn the meeting. Registrar Kay seconded the motion. Motion carried.