The September 2020 conference call meeting of the Chatham County Board of Registrars was called to order by Board Chairman Colin McRae.

Members of the Board in attendance by phone were Ms. Andrews, Chairman McRae, Mr. Norse, Mr. Pannell and Mr. Slay. Staff in attendance included Ms. Sabrina German, Director and Mrs. Inger Bostick, Assistant Director and Mr. Keith Pflager, Absentee Ballot Clerk. Several members of the public also participated.

Board Chairman McRae led the participants in the Pledge of Allegiance to begin the meeting.

Approval of August 2020 Meeting Minutes: Mr. Pannell made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the July 2020 meeting as written. Ms. Andrews seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Old Business

November 3, 2020 General Election Advance Voting : Ms. Indicated that the satellite location set-up will be split up over October 8 and October 9 so the sites are ready for the start of Advance Voting on October 12. The six sites that will be in operation are the Main Office, Mosquito Control, Islands Library, Southwest Chatham Library, Pooler Recreation Center (Gym) and the Savannah Civic Center.

Absentee Ballot Request Processing Satellite Site: Ms. German indicated that, due to the very large expected demand for absentee ballots, a satellite location is currently operational at the Savannah International Trade & Convention Center for processing of those requests.

Absentee Ballot Drop Boxes: Eight absentee ballot drop boxes will be established in addition to the Main Office. These sites are required to be government property and have security cameras to monitor the drop boxes. The drop boxes will be located at Savannah Civic Center, W.W. Law Center, Liberty City Community Center, Carver Village Community Center, Southwest Library, Coastal Georgia Extension (Minus Ave. – Garden City), Chatham County PD Islands Precinct and Savannah State University. The City of Savannah will provide access to the security camera footage at City-owned properties featuring a drop box, such as the Savannah Civic Center. The City-owned site(s) will need City Council approval. A Council meeting is scheduled for September 24 to approve.

Additionally, a press conference is tentatively planned for September 25 to announce these locations. The installation of the drop boxes will be done by County staff. Mr. Slay also mentioned that the Board should consider a drop box in the Savannah Highlands area and the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum in the future. The Board will consider these options.

Ms. Andrews made a motion to approve these drop box sites. Mr. Slay seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

New Business

Volunteer Training: Ms. German indicated that 40 volunteers are being trained to assist staff in various capacities with the November 2020 General Election mostly as drop box retrieval team members as well as Advance Voting. The volunteers will undergo background screening and other elements of the normal Chatham County Human Resources process

Voter Registration Totals

Ms. German reported 195,255 active and 25,376 inactive voters as well as 346 pending voters.

Voter Challenges

Ms. German indicated 32 felon, 10 deceased and 19 request to be removed challenges are up for approval by the Board today. At 12:47 p.m., Mr. Pannell made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Slay to approve placing a challenged status on the above mentioned voters.

Public Discusssion:

A member of the public asked about confirmation notices being sent to PO Boxes and not residence addresses and how this may impact inactive voters who did not receive or respond to the notice. Ms. German indicates that confirmation notices are sent to the mailing address on file in the computer system, which could be either the residence address or a PO Box. Ms. German also highlighted that inactive voters can still vote. It is only when a registration is cancelled that a voter would need to re-register before actually voting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.