

**SPALDING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**July 12, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Spalding County Board of Elections and Registration was held at the County Courthouse Annex, 109 East Solomon Street at 6:00 p.m. on July 12, 2022. Attending were Chairman Ben Johnson, presiding and Board Members Roy McClain, Dexter Wimbish, and James Newland Also present were Elections Supervisor Kim Slaughter, Voter Registration Coordinator Billie Preston, Attorney Stephanie Windham, and Teresa Watson to record minutes.

**Invocation/Moment of Silence**

Invocation was given by James Newland.

**Pledge to the Flag**

Pledge was led by Roy McClain.

**Citizen Comments** – None

**Adoption of the Agenda**

*Motion/second by James Newland/Roy McClain to amend the agenda to include an introduction of new Board Member Dexter Wimbish and also to change the date of the regular monthly meeting of November and change the date of the regular September meeting carried by a vote of 4-0.*

*Motion/second by James Newland/Roy McClain to adopt the agenda as amended carried 4-0.*

**Minutes**

*Motion/second to approve the April regular meeting, the May30 special called meeting and the June 27 special called meeting by Roy McClain/James Newland carried by a vote of 3-0-1 with Mr. Wimbish abstaining since he was not in attendance at those meetings.*

**Old Business**

Update on the file move and inventory – Roy McClain advised he had met with District Attorney Marie Broder and will prepare a report. We will need to wait on file movement until at least the first of August. We have already secured the location.

**New Business**

-Welcome was extended to new Board Member Dexter Wimbish, who is succeeding Alfred Jester. He has been a Spalding County resident for six years. He will need to get email set up completed. Mr. Wimbish apologized for missing the special called meeting earlier tonight, but noted he received no meeting notice.

-Discuss upcoming meeting schedules – the November 8 regular scheduled meeting falls on Election Day so it is not feasible. Additionally, we will need to meet shortly after that to certify the election results, so the *November meeting date was changed to November 14 on motion/second by James Newland/Dexter Wimbish by a vote of 4-0.*

The September meeting date is problematic since Kim Slaughter will be out of town, but she will return the next week. *Motion/second to reschedule the September meeting to the 20<sup>th</sup> by James Newland/Roy McClain carried by a vote of 4-0.*

**New Business**

Elections Supervisor Report – Kim Slaughter advised of the resignation of Alfred Jester, and she thanked him for his dedicated service. Dexter Wimbish has been appointed by the Democratic Party to fill this Board vacancy, and the Spalding County Probate Court today confirmed Mr. Wimbish.

Ms. Slaughter provided an update on the 2022 Voter Registration review of records. 32 moved out of state, 1191 have moved out of County; 74 Rejected status due to missing or incorrect information; 1493 were deceased. Name changes accounted for 705; 143 were documented as felons; 3445 had no activity; 150 were merges; and 15,259 did not have the original card on file, necessitating that we go to the state site and find files. We will do this process again next year. Ideally, it is done in odd years when office staff has a little more time. This will better ensure accuracy of voter registration records.

Ms. Slaughter clarified the process for Mr. Wimbish, noting the objective is to clean all records in the voter registration system. This requires pulling physical records by alpha for comparison, which is both time consuming and the files were in a mess. With name or address changes, they could get info from ENet for deceased or out of state/county voters. Many issues were resolved as we went along. Ms. Slaughter responded to Mr. Wimbish that there were no details that could quantify how many were purged as a result.

Felon reports are received from the Georgia Department of Corrections. They do get a notice advising that they are about to be removed. Mr. Wimbish said he did not seek to be argumentative but was concerned about the removal of voters from voter records. He wants to be sure felons are so notified. Some felons can be reinstated legally, and he wants to ensure they are following protocols.

Chairman Johnson said no felons were removed except from the state's removal list. This is a normal monthly process from reports provided by the state and would not constitute situations with which Mr. Wimbish voiced concerns. Further discussion was held. It was noted that 143 felons were removed from the physical file since that had never been done, and they show as felons who are ineligible to vote.

Mr. Wimbish noted that he was going to ask questions as a member of this Board until such time as he can get satisfactory answers. He is not going to be challenged by anyone about his questions, and he is not going to be argumentative. He will approach with a legal perspective, and there will be no shouting matches. He demands respect not earns respect. He simply wants to ask a question and have it answered. This Election Board has issues, and we are not going to fix issues by arguing with one another. He did not understand how an election supervisor cannot have detailed answers to members' questions.

Ms. Slaughter advised there was no monthly update on voter registration records this month because of all the activity that was withheld because of the cutoff that was implemented from the election. We will have a full report next month.

With regard to precinct cards, 3480 were not deliverable, 511 were out of county, 204 were out of state, 663 experienced an address change, 57 were returned for handling issues (insufficient postage, etc.), 19 were deceased, 19 were temporarily away, and 6 were returned for other issues. Out of county and out of state received generated letters mailed to corrected addresses provided by the United States Postal Service.

The May 24, 2022, election results were certified on 5-31-22 at a special called meeting. For the June 21 general primary runoff, certification of results occurred on June 27 at a special called meeting, and documentation was filed with the Secretary of State's Office accordingly. Results can be found on the webpage – [www.spalding.com](http://www.spalding.com). Over 5000 voters were processed during Early voting in the May election. Ms. Slaughter thanked her team, Early Voting team led by Billie Preston and Poll Manager Emma Jean Foster-Taylor, who processed over 5000 voters and balanced every single day. Advanced voting documented weekday average totals for the three early voting weeks of week one 1321, week 2 1580, and week 3 2427 for a total of 5328. Saturday voting totaled 234 with only two Saturdays averaging 117 for Saturday voting

Both elections were considered successful. There were a few hiccups with equipment, the same since I have arrived in 2021 issues such as printing and some BMD issues. The tape width on the rolls of tape purchased through Dominion have been resolved. Poll Pads continue to demonstrate poor design and poor connectivity issues. Ballot marking devices (touch screens) have some issues, as well. The touch screens hold no voting

data – just the number. She thanked poll workers, also. If anyone is interested in becoming a poll worker, he/she can download the app and staff will give them a call.

Logic & Accuracy Testing for both the May & June elections was successful. One notable issue is that the poll pads, when syncing, inserted Seminole County precinct instead of Spalding County on the poll pad, but these were resolved. All counties have been notified that poll pads will be distributed by April 2023. They should be real time operational by that time. It should be a matter of a simple process and uploading. An email from the Secretary of State’s Office was provided for reference.

Garvis, the new upcoming Voter Registration System, will be implemented in 2023. November 8, 2022 will be Election Day; Advance Voting will be October 17-22, October 24-29, and October 31-November 6. The deadline for registering to vote or to change address will be October 11, 2022.

We are awaiting verification of 1000 signatures received from Michelle Drugacz for comparisons. This should be completed by end of July.

Finally, a complete inventory of all voting equipment and equipment repair needed is scheduled to be completed by the end of July.

### **Board Member Comments**

Chairman Johnson – He advised that we normally provide reports of removals/changes, etc. Those numbers should help satisfy the concerns of Mr. Wimbish.

McClain – No comment.

Wimbish – No comment.

Newland – During runoff elections, he visited several precincts and worked with Jim O’Brien and felt it was a good election.

Johnson – He thanked Mr. Alfred Jester for his diligent service and noted he looked forward to working with Mr. Wimbish. He witnessed runoff night himself and thought everything was managed much more smoothly. It was noted that for November and May – we did not contract with Dominion and saved \$4000. Staff was commended for their hard work.

### **Executive Session**

County Attorney requests an Executive Session to discuss pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the Spalding County Board of Elections and Registration or any officer or employee or in which the Board of Elections or any officer or employee may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1).

***Motion/second by Roy McClain/James Newland to enter Executive Session at 6:46 pm carried 4-0.***

***Motion/second by James Newland/Roy McClain to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene to Open Meeting at 7:02 pm.***

***Motion/second to adjourn McClain/Newland at 7:02 p.m.***

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Ben Johnson, Chairman

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Recording Secretary, Teresa A. Watson