

SPALDING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION
Regular Meeting
August 9, 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 August 9, 2022. Attending were Vice Chairman James Newland, presiding and Board Members Roy McClain, Dexter Wimbish, and Jim O'Brien. 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 Jim O'Brien.

Pledge to the Flag - Pledge was led by Roy McClain.

Citizen Comments

Vice Chair Newland read guidelines for citizens' comments.

Mary Braun

Last month she watched the meeting online and was disturbed by the behavior of a new member to the Elections Superintendent, her staff, and the Board. She felt an apology was due to all involved because of the disrespect. The same rules of conduct read to citizens should apply to everyone with no showboating.

Adoption of the Agenda

*Motion/second by Jim O'Brien/Roy McClain to include the report of the Elections Supervisor carried 4-0.
Motion/second to adopt the agenda as amended by Jim O'Brien/Roy McClain carried 4-0.*

Approval of Minutes

Motion/second by Roy McClain/Jim O'Brien to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 12, 2022, and the Special Called Meeting of July 12, 2022, carried 4-0.

Old Business

- a. Update on Public Relations Issues
Potential vendors have not been solicited as yet but should be provided in the near future.
- b. Update on File Move and Inventory
Files will be moved tomorrow at noon to the new file storage facility. A number of people will help, and we hope to get all the boxes moved. We will not enter any of the boxes.

New Business

- a. Discussion of Minutes – Jim O'Brien
As of 4 p.m. today, the April, May and June meeting minutes of the Board of Elections are not posted. He wondered if the Board was in compliance with Election Law. Ms. Windham noted that Georgia Law (not Election Law) requires they be posted immediately upon approval and no greater than 30 days. Mr. O'Brien wondered what the Board could do to facilitate this process. Ms. Slaughter stated she was under the impression that minutes were posted. Once the minutes are approved, she provides them to the person responsible for posting them to the website. She will follow up on this process. Ms. Windham said this follow-up could eliminate another occurrence. DeAndre Smith has, for the most part, had minutes posted in a timely fashion, but she will revisit. He has been very helpful, and she is surprised the minutes were not posted.
- b. Exploring use of Zoom meeting when election board members are away – Jim O'Brien

Mr. O'Brien said he was delighted the Board has an opportunity to allow participation via Zoom. Ms. Windham said it could be used twice in a calendar year by Board members because of illness and being out of the jurisdiction and only if the Board has a quorum physically present.

- c. Discuss need for creating/revising the Bylaws for the Spalding County Board of Elections and Voter Registration – Jim O'Brien

Mr. O'Brien said in August the Board voted unanimously to put aside the revision of the Bylaws because of all the issues this new Board was facing. He wondered if the Board wanted to revisit this issue now and pursue revision of the Bylaws. Ms. Windham said there was a Bylaws Committee, of which Mr. O'Brien is Chair, but nothing was done at the time. Considering the changes of recent election legislation, there will probably need to be a total revamping of the Bylaws to bring conformity of the Bylaws to HB 769 and SB202. The new Bylaws will be significantly different. Ms. Windham responded to Mr. Wimbish that the Bylaws were revised more than five years ago.

Motion/second to remove the suspension of revisions to the Bylaws by Mr. Wimbish/Mr. McClain carried unanimously at 4-0. Ms. Windham said she did not necessarily need to be a member of the committee, but she would need to review them. Vice Chair Newland said he would prefer to wait until a full Board can meet to set up a Bylaws Committee. The Board concurred.

Report of Elections Supervisor

Ms. Slaughter advised the ballot build and the ballot survey have been submitted for the November 8, 2022, General Election. She provided an update on the independent candidate Michelle Drugacz petition. There are 879 total accepted/verified signatures and Ms. Drugacz will appear on the November 8, 2022, General Election Ballot as an independent candidate for County Commission District 5.

Ms. Slaughter noted that an inventory of election equipment has been completed and she enumerated all devices. She provided a voter registration update for the period of April 26 to August 1, 2022, and a voter registration dashboard (electronic transmissions from the State) as follows: 174 online voter registration; 2745 DDS (Department of Drivers Services) with address changes, new registrations, name changes and current registered voters with no change; vitals (deceased) at 47; and 94 felons.

Reminders: September 13 Regular Monthly Meeting has been canceled, and a Special Called Meeting will be scheduled for September 20, 2022. The November 8 Regular Monthly Meeting has been canceled and a Special Called Meeting will be scheduled for November 14, 2022. Moving of inventory will occur tomorrow, August 10, beginning at Noon as described by Mr. McClain. We can begin accepting requests for absentee voting applications on August 22, 2022, with an end date of October 28, 2022. Advance Voting dates will be October 17-22 from 9 am to 5 pm, October 24-29 from 9 am to 5 pm, and October 31-November 4 from 9 am to 5 pm. All polling locations will be open on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, from 7 am to 7 pm. Advance Voting stats for the May 2022 primary totaled 5328.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Wimbish	Thanked staff for setting up his email and Webex for the meeting tonight.
Mr. O'Brien	No comment.
Mr. Newland	Thanked everyone for the turnout.
Mr. McClain	Thanked staff for moving assistance and noted staff is challenged, so please be patient.

Adjournment

Motion/second by Mr. O'Brien/Mr. McClain to adjourn at 6:40 pm carried unanimously at 4-0.

Vice Chairman, James Newland

Teresa A. Watson, Recording Secretary