

SPALDING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION
Special Called Meeting
January 10, 2023

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 January 10, 2023. Attending were Vice Chair James Newland, presiding; Roy McClain; and Jim O'Brien. Chairman Ben Johnson and Dexter Wimbish were absent. Also present were Elections Supervisor Kim Slaughter, 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 Comment

None

Adoption of the Agenda

Motion/second by Mr. McClain/Mr. O'Brien to adopt the agenda as presented carried unanimously.

Minutes

Motion/second to approve 2022 Minutes for the October 11 Regular Meeting, November 15 Special Called Meeting, December 12 Special Called Meeting, and December 16 Special Called Meeting by Mr. McClain/Mr. O'Brien carried unanimously.

Report of Elections Supervisor

Kim Slaughter reported on GARVIS training that she and staff members attended in Athens at the Continuing Education Conference Center January 4 through January 6, 2023. She noted that January 31 is the last day of operation for ENET, and February 6 will be the launch date for GARVIS, Georgia's new voter registration system. The office will not be able to enter any information after January 31 until February 6 when GARVIS launches.

She reported on the 38 cellular poll pads issued by the Secretary of State (SOS) office to be delivered this week. We have a total of 44 poll pads, but we need to look at upgrading the six poll pads that were purchased by the County in 2020. It was anticipated that implementation of the cellular poll pads would speed up the early voting process. The original 38 are not sufficient, and we are not sure of the cost for upgrading the remaining 6. This is a brief synopsis, and more details will be provided later. A stand will have to be purchased if not provided by the State. It will print the application at the time and made available to sign, thus providing an all-in-one scenario. It will possibly cut out two steps and not just one. The SOS will be upgrading all of the Dominion equipment to version 5.7. EPulse will be beneficial and eliminate some errors while providing more control.

Ms. Slaughter noted that Dr. Yoshunda Jones had shared some concerns over the past two meetings that she would like to address. She stated that "provisional votes cast" was different from "provisional votes counted." Some provisional ballots do not meet the criteria for being counted. Clarification was provided for an ORA request, noting that the process for both active and inactive voters are the same. Only the State can notify of a change from active to inactive, usually done because of years of non-participation in elections or several years of no contact. Then to go from inactive back to active status requires communication. As for challenged voters, no records responsive was our response because there were no challenged voters in the November and December elections. She encouraged citizens with such concerns to contact her office and either actions or explanations could hopefully resolve the issues.

With regard to staffing, William Godat's last day was December 30, 2022. He was a huge asset and will be sorely missed. There is a part-time position open in the office, and this information may be found on the Spalding County website.

After Agendas have been a source of concern, and Ms. Slaughter noted that going forward, After Agendas will be posted in timely manner.

Ms. Slaughter noted that she would be out of the office until next Tuesday.

As for an update on the fake ballot situation, there has been no response from SOS office to date, but we will continue to ask. In the midst of finding the fake ballot, we discovered we should have had a wand on hand to determine if the paper was security paper. The State stated they could send, but we have not received it yet. She reached out to Dominion and was told it would be \$173 to purchase. She will ensure that an order is placed. Several other counties noted did not receive a wand either.

Ms. Slaughter said she would craft a letter to our local legislators regarding the workshop on January 3. She will share with the Board before mailing.

Mr. O'Brien wondered if our local legislators might be able to help with the fake ballots. Ms. Slaughter felt they could and that it will be a major topic.

Old Business

Amending the Elections Office By-laws – Jim O'Brien

This process consists of four steps. First was appointment of a committee of three (Newland, Wimbish, O'Brien). Revisions will incorporate HB769 and SB202 requirements. He has sent a draft version to Attorney Stephanie Windham to review. More edits will follow. He sent a copy to Ms. Slaughter as well to see how her roles and that of her staff will be impacted. More edits and recommendations will be forthcoming. Later, Version 2 will be presented to the Board for a vote.

New Business

Setting calendar of meetings for 2023.

These regular meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month except November, or in the case of a Special Election called in order to provide for certification. The Courthouse Annex meeting room has been reserved. *Motion/second to approve meeting dates as described by Mr. McClain/Mr. O'Brien carried unanimously.*

Election of Chairman for January 2023 through December 31, 2024.

Motion/second by Mr. McClain/Mr. O'Brien to reappoint Ben Johnson as Chairman carried unanimously.

Election of Vice-Chairman for 2023.

Motion/second by Mr. McClain/Mr. O'Brien to reappoint Mr. Newland as Vice Chair carried unanimously.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Newland No comment.

Mr. McClain It has come to his attention from a number of citizens that they would like to see earlier meetings for those challenged with driving at night. For 2023 special or added meetings, if we could try to possibly start earlier to please those who cannot drive in the evenings, it would be appreciated. Mr. Newland advised we can take this up with Chairman Johnson. Mr. O'Brien concurred.

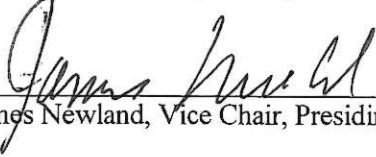
Mr. O'Brien No comment.

Executive Session

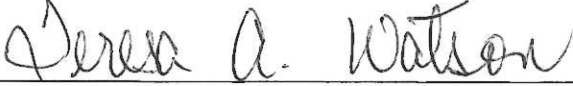
None

Adjournment

Motion/second to adjourn by Mr. McClain/Mr. O'Brien at 6:27 p.m. carried unanimously.



James Newland, Vice Chair, Presiding



Teresa A. Watson, Recording Secretary