

SPALDING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2024

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 Tuesday, February 13, 2024. Attending were: Vice-Chair, James Newland, presiding; Roy McClain; and Dexter Wimbish. Absent were Chair, Ben Johnson, and Jim O'Brien. Also present were Elections Supervisor Kim Slaughter, Attorney Stephanie Windham, and Teresa Watson to record minutes.

Call to Order – Vice Chairman Newland called the meeting to order at 6:05 when a quorum was attained.

Invocation/Moment of Silence - Invocation was given by James Newland.

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

Citizen Comment

No one was signed to speak.

Adoption of the Agenda

Motion/second to adopt the agenda as presented by Roy McClain/Dexter Wimbish carried unanimously.

Minutes

Motion/second to approve Minutes of the December 5, 2023, and the January 9, 2024, Regular Meetings by Dexter Wimbish/Roy McClain carried unanimously.

Report of Elections Supervisor

Ms. Slaughter presented her monthly report and noted that March 1 is the deadline for the office to receive requests for application for absentee ballots by mail. No questions were forthcoming, and the report is attached to and becomes a part of these minutes.

Kim Slaughter gave kudos to Sandra Hardy and staff for their outstanding work in the area of redistricting. They produced an alpha voter list and are working with Brian Haynes at the City of Griffin, running information against GIS for identifying voters not accounted for in the system. We are hoping for a fresh report from GARVIS tomorrow morning. The deadline of February 9th has passed but our goal is for perfection.

The Precinct Update detailed consolidation of Precincts 17 and 9 into Precinct 9. Notifications were sent previously to voters affected, as well as the media, and signage placed at both locations. There are about 2000 voters affected by this consolidation. Union Baptist Church has been most accommodating for the precinct. Ms. Slaughter will meet at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning to look at Faith Baptist Church as a voting precinct until Gary Reid Fire Station renovations are complete for precinct 16. We will notify those voters, also, before the election. The Church is only ½ mile from Gary Reid Fire Station. She will keep the Board abreast of developments. Early and Advance voting logic and accuracy testing is complete but did travel a slower pace due to sickness.

Qualifying:

Fees have been posted, and an ad is to run for qualifying fees. A list was provided.

Advance voting details were provided for February 19-24 (Monday through Saturday) from 9 am to 5 pm, February 26-March 2 (Monday through Saturday) from 9 am to 5 pm, and March 4-8 (Monday through Friday) from 9 am to 5 pm.

The ballot order from Tattnall Ballot totaled \$4092.87, which is over the \$3000 threshold, so approval from the Board will be necessary to pay.

Motion /second by Roy McClain/Dexter Wimbish to amend the agenda to provide for this vote as an action item carried unanimously at 3-0. Motion/second by Dexter Wimbish/Roy McClain to approve payment of the invoice from Tattnall Ballot in the amount of \$4092.87 for ballot provision carried unanimously at 3-0.

Roy McClain noted he would like to come over and get an update from the Elections Office staff. Ms. Slaughter noted the middle room of the office is the area to be worked on first starting Monday so they may secure workstations and scanning equipment for absentee ballots by mail and secure the EMS election management system. The other part of the room is for absentee processing. The public can come in and view those procedures as they like, yet they are still secure. There is transparency but with security.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Board Comments

Roy McClain He received a letter from the Democratic party of Georgia that felt intimidating. After counseling, he felt they misrepresented OCGA and twisted it to fit into the concept of this letter. He will take it and will do what he feels his oath calls for in this regard. He will file it away; there were no questions about the letter. Ms. Windham felt it acted as a warning for future actions.

Mr. McClain also provided an update on health issues for him. Over the next few months, he will undergo some pretty radical medical care. Doctors have said there will be tough times. If he feels he cannot be productive, he will address it at a future time, but right now he felt there was nothing to do until the end of his term.

Dexter Wimbish He noted he would be in prayer for Roy McClain and that, upon hearing this, he was concerned with regard to quorums since full attendance seems to be an issue of late. Certifications are coming up, said Ms. Windham, and a quorum would be critical at these times. Discussions may be held with Chairman Johnson. The last thing they need is to have elections not be able to be certified.

James Newland He would pray for Mr. McClain, too. He hopes he can continue, as he is a valued member and faithful.

Adjournment

Motion/second to adjourn at 6:30 p.m. by Dexter Wimbish/Roy McClain carried unanimously.

James Newland, Vice Chair, Presiding

Teresa A. Watson, Recording Secretary