

SPALDING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION
After Agenda Regular Meeting and Certification
June 24, 2024

The regular/certification meeting of the Spalding County Board of Elections and Registration was held at the Office of the Spalding County Elections and Registration on Memorial Drive at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, June 24, 2024. Attending were: Chair, Ban Johnson, presiding; Roy McClain; and James Newland. Absent were Jim O'Brien and Dexter Wimbish.

Also present were Elections Supervisor Kim Slaughter, Attorney Stephanie Windham, and Teresa Watson to record minutes.

Call to Order – Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order.

Invocation/Moment of Silence - Invocation was given by Roy McClain.

Pledge to the Flag - Pledge was led by James Newland.

Citizen Comment

No one was signed to speak at the meeting.

Adoption of the Agenda

Motion/second to amend the agenda by James Newland/Roy McClain to add the following New Business:

- (d) Consider moving Precinct 10 from Carver Road Fire Station to Carver Road Baptist Church, and*
- (e) Consider approval of expenditure of \$14,550 for purchase of water-marked security ballot paper and 30 batteries for the ballot marking devices.*

Vote to approve amended agenda was unanimous at 3-0.

New Business

- (a) Consider approval of the April 9, 2024, and May 28, 2024, Regular Monthly Meeting minutes.
Motion/second by James Newland/Roy McClain to approve both meetings carried unanimously at 3-0.

- (b) Report of the Results for the June 18, 2024 General Primary/Non-Partisan Run-off Election for Spalding County. Elections Supervisor, Kim Slaughter, provided an Election Summary Report denoting that 1) Brian Jack carried the US House of Representatives, District 3, with 2527 votes to his opponent, Mike Dugan, with 1099 votes, and 2) Cheri Weldon carried the Board of Education, District 4 seat, with 745 votes to her incumbent opponent, Barbara Jo Cook, with 327 votes.

- (c) Certification for the June 18, 2024, General Primary/Non-Partisan Run-off Election.

Motion/second by James Newland/Roy McClain to certify the above noted results for discussion.

Roy McClain asked if there were any challenges with the process or equipment in the election, and Kim Slaughter noted a couple: 1) ballot marking devices not charging or keeping a charge, and 2) a few issues with scanners not accepting ballots at the first attempt by a voter. The scanners not accepting ballots at times is an intermittent problem that is not easily identified during L & A testing since it seems to occur after being used for some time. All that staff can do is to clean the scanners as instructed; this is not a jamming issue.

Roy McClain noted it is easy to have a myriad of problems with this antiquated system. In his opinion, this is a second-rate way in which to conduct elections. On a positive note, the hand count was well done and balanced with the audit. *Motion carried unanimously at 3-0.*

- (d) Consider moving Precinct 10 from Carver Road Fire Station to Carver Road Baptist Church if all requirements are met that are set forth by the State Polling Precinct guidelines.
This needed improvement for Precinct 10 voters will be discussed in a meeting this Friday with Pastor Brandon Footit. If all goes well, she will move forward with notifying all voters of Precinct 10 and advertising the move as required. *Motion/second to approve by Roy McClain/James Newland carried 3-0.*

- (e) Consider approval for expenditure of \$14,550 to Dominion for purchasing water-marked security ballot paper and 30 batteries for the ballot marking devices.

Ms. Slaughter detailed the proposed expenditure for members, noting the existing security ballot stock will be shredded on site. There will be a full review before the November election to see if anything more needs to be added to this list. Other counties, the SOS, and Dominion are aware of the battery issue. Roy McClain stated newer versions of voting equipment should be available instead of this older technology. Some discussion followed regarding the possibility of using colored paper for anything other than ballot paper traveling to the individual precincts to prevent any confusion. It was noted that the water-marked security ballot paper from Dominion is required. ***Motion/second to approve the expenditure of \$14,550 to Dominion as noted, by Roy McClain/James Newland, carried unanimously.***

Elections Supervisor Report

Ms. Slaughter provided a June 18, 2024, elections update. It was successful with only a couple of glitches.

The state mandated Risk Limit Audit will take place Wednesday, June 26, 2024, in this room.

Voter Registration updates:

- NCOA for out of state and out of county should be received from the Secretary of State's office, and will be mailed out this Thursday - 166 out of state confirmations and 370 out of county confirmations.
- ERIC Cross State Confirmations (102) will be mailed out by the Secretary of State's office.
- All other data entry for voter registration is on hold until completion of the certification and the state mandated Risk Limit Audit. Ms. Slaughter noted that her office responds to voter registration updates with a follow-up letter and registration form when applicable, even though this goes beyond state requirements.

The office renovation is complete for Phase II. Phase III should hopefully begin before August. It appears the Board of Commissioners is trying to find a way to accommodate Advance Voting for the November election. This remains a concern and, if improved accommodations are not made and we have to stay with the Athletic Hall of Fame location as our only choice for Advance (Early) Voting, Spalding County will not meet the requirement of the one-hour wait time set forth by the State.

Ms. Slaughter asked members to mark their calendars for August 7, which will be an all-day, all-inclusive webinar training session led by the Secretary of State's Bran Raffensperger with regards to the November election to address security concerns and other election matters. We are encouraged to, and will, invite law enforcement, IT, and the District Attorney's Office. Additional information will be forthcoming.

August 26-August 30 will be a week of training for elections officials and registrars in Middle Georgia.

The Secretary of State's Office will be reimbursing some of the cost of mailing out precinct cards.

July 9 is the next scheduled meeting but, because of conflicts, ***the July meeting was cancelled by a unanimous vote on motion/second by Roy McClain/James Newland.*** Notices will be sent out accordingly.

Board Member Comments

Roy McClain noted he would soon be returning to the task of scanning of the 2022 ballots. About 2/3 of them had been scanned when he became ill and the process was interrupted.

James Newland commended Staff and Poll Workers for a fine job with this election. He was disappointed though with the individual parties (both Republican and Democratic) who did not provide help as requested.

Ben Johnson thanked everyone, also. He asked if we could schedule a legislative update, to brief the Board on new policies, etc. Ms. Windham and Mr. McClain both said they would see if they could contact our local legislators and arrange a date for this, possibly in August, in preparation before their new session in January.

Adjournment

Motion/second to adjourn at 10:45 a.m. by James Newland/Roy McClain carried unanimously.