

SPALDING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND VOTER REGISTRATION

AFTER AGENDA

September 10,2024

The regular meeting of the Spalding County Board of Elections and Voter Registration was held at the County Courthouse Annex, 109 East Solomon Street at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 10, 2024. Attending were: Chairman, Ben Johnson, presiding; James Newland and Roy McClain. Also present were Elections Supervisor Kim Slaughter, Attorney Stephanie Windham, and Kelly Romero to record minutes

Call to Order – Chairman Johnson called meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

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

Citizen Comment – Alisha Amen-Ra asked the question, “How does Spalding County look on poll workers? How many roughly do we have?” Amen-Ra was reminded by Chair Johnson that this is a time for comments, grievances or praise, not a back-and-forth session. He advised he was sure Mrs. Slaughter would touch on this in her presentation.

Adoption of the Agenda – *Motion/second to adopt the agenda with no amendments. James Newland/Roy McClain, 3-0 motion carries.*

Old Business – No old business

New Business

(A) Election Supervisor Report – Kim Slaughter

Voter Registration Report – Registered Voters per Secretary of State (GARVIS) as of September 9, 2024 is 52,900. The following are totals from the dates of August 14,2024 to September 10, 2024. Kim Slaughter provided a full voter registration update and asked for any questions. None were presented.

Election Supervisor Kim Slaughter reported the following items:

We are nearing completion of our Physical Card Audit, with only minimal trouble shooting left to be done. We will begin preparing a full report for the October meeting.

Our office began accepting Absentee by Mail Applications on August 19, 2024, for the November 5, 2024, General Election, to date we have accepted 1,023 applications.

Our office has also secured a booth for our Voter Information Event during the week of September 20th – 28th to take place at the Griffin-Kawanis Fair Grounds.

Advance Voting location Update: Notice to the public has been posted of the update in the Advance Voting location until further notice to The Office of Elections and Voter Registration, 825 Memorial Dr., Griffin, GA 30223

Precinct 10 Relocation Update: Notice to the public has been posted of the update to the Precinct 10 new Polling location which is now Oak Hill Church, 100 Lakeside Rd., Williamson, GA 30292. All voters of Precinct 10 have been notified by USPS mail and all required signage has been constructed and ready for placement of this change.

Poll Workers – Mrs. Slaughter stated we are in good shape. Dates are preset for training and will begin toward the end of next week with Poll Managers and Assistant Managers. Then we will move toward training the clerks.

November 5, 2024, General Election Update: We have completed the proofing of the November 5th, General Election project file. The project and print file signoffs have been submitted to the Secretary of State's Ballot Building team. This took approximately one week with sending corrections to the Secretary of State's office twice.

Logic and Accuracy is scheduled to begin next Thursday, September 19, 2024.

The ordering of paper ballots will begin tomorrow and will be submitted to Tatnall Printing by the end of day September 10, 2024.

We have completed the IOS update to the Poll Pads to 17.6.1.

We have received a portion of Watermarked Ballot security paper as 25 reams were returned due to damage. Dominion is working with their vendor and the remainder of ballot security paper should arrive within the week.

Health Check on EMS (Election Management System) – Chris Ballew with the Secretary of State's Election's Office conducted a health check on a BMD (Ballot Marking Device), an ICP Scanner, and the Election Management System on last Thursday and everything worked as expected.

Secretary of State Election and Voter Registration Training – The week of training in Forsyth, GA reviewed the basic procedures of Voter Registration and Elections, with some new information being introduced.

We will now upload results through the GARVIS system instead of through the previous portal (Syctl).

We will now upload ballot images through GARVIS that will read the text of the ballot and audit it against the results which are uploaded on Election Night.

Board Comments on Election Supervisor Report

Chairman Johnson asked if the ballot image upload through GARVIS is using OCR to read text then tabulate the results. Mrs. Slaughter replied that it's an audit being conducted. It's separate from uploading results. They are two different things. Chairman Johnson asked is this the legal and

mandated pilot actually using the OCR to read things on the ballot, the words on the ballot instead of the QR Code? Mrs. Slaughter replied it is now required that the text of the ballot image be uploaded as a part of the ballot image, but the process will be used as an audit tool. Chairman Johnson asked questions concerning the text on the image that would be extracted from the ballot. Mrs. Slaughter replied that it is her understanding when you upload ballot images within the GARVIS system, it is taking the text from those images and that is what it will use to audit against the results of the election.

James Newland asked if the address of early voting will be the same as our office and did we get a connecting door. Mrs. Slaughter advised that he was correct on the address and she is addressing the connecting door with the construction department at this time. As far as an update on the facility, she had hoped we were going to be able to do a couple of items other than just power before early voting but has been informed that we cannot. Right now it is pretty much power only but the connecting door is of great importance and believes that need will be met. She had a conversation about that with construction today and should have an answer on that tomorrow. Mr. Newland replied that it is very important that our people don't have to go outside.

Roy McClain asked if we had control of the whole facility now? He is concerned with security unless Kim has the only key to the door. Mrs. Slaughter replied, we have been given the date of October 1st, 2024 if not earlier as the promised date of it coming into the Board of Elections and Voter Registration possession. As far as a key, her first priority is to have the door lock changed once it is in our possession.

(B) Consider approval of the August 13, 2021, Regular monthly meeting minutes and August 23, 2024, Special called Workshop meeting minutes to be accepted as read. Moved by Roy McClain/ second by James Newland 3-0 motion carries.

(C) Consider approval for amendment to the Resolution delegating of authority to the Elections Supervisor for the remainder of the Calendar year 2024 for line item 6 to read as follows: The procurement and purchasing of equipment and supplies not to exceed \$25,000.00 without approval of the Board.

Kim Slaughter advised when she came in 2022 acting as a department head as she is now, it was not written or didn't need to come to the board for approval. We just moved along doing what needed to be done and paying for things as we had to. So when board member Jim O'Brien and she met with County Attorney Stephanie Windom to discuss this matter we weren't in election stage at that time. So therefore, when you are not in election stage, you are not thinking about the bigger items that come through at different times. So we have reviewed this and increased it once but we were in a smaller election at that time.

Roy McClain asked if this is in line with what other counties are doing. Mrs. Slaughter advised it was. Attorney Windom advised that a special meeting would have to be held for each expenditure exceeding this amount. James Newland replied that a special meeting would also have to have a 24-hour notice and if you have an emergency and you need something today and can't wait until

tomorrow. Mrs. Slaughter advised especially if it is a piece of equipment we have to replace and can't wait for it. Roy McClain made a motion to increase the amount so that each time an expenditure was needed, Mrs. Slaughter wouldn't have to come to them. Motion/second by Roy McClain/James Newland, 3-0 motion carries.

Board Comments –

James Newland – We have a general election coming up. It is a tremendous responsibility. I don't know if any of you out there realize how big a responsibility it is to hold a General Election for 52,000 voters. That is a tremendous amount of work. It has to be done, there are no excuses. It has to be done right, there are no excuses, and Kim is the person who can do that, and I thank you. Mrs. Slaughter replied with thank you for that.

Roy McClain – Nothing for me.

Ben Johnson – Appreciate it. I know everything is a lot of work. You truly have rebuilt it from scratch. Mrs. Slaughter replied, Thank you. We have a great team, and I thank each and every one of them. To be successful, you have to have a good team and that is what we have in our office. I am very proud and thankful to be able to say that and thankful to you all, the board and look forward to seeing you on Election Day.

Executive Session

The 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 James Newland/Roy McClain to enter Executive Session at 6:20 p.m. carried 3-0.

Motion/second by James Newland/Roy McClain to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene to Open meeting at 7:08 p.m. carried 3-0

Motion/second to adjourn McClain/Newland at 7:09 p.m. carried 3-0

Ben Johnson, Chairman

Kimberly Slaughter, Election Supervisor

