

SPALDING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION
Regular Monthly Minutes
August 13, 2024

The regular meeting of the Spalding County Board of Elections and Voter Registration was held at the Office of the Spalding County Elections and Registration at the Courthouse Annex at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 13, 2024. Attending were: Vice Chair James Newland, presiding; Roy McClain; 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 – Vice Chair Newland called the meeting to order.

Invocation/Moment of Silence - Invocation was given by Jim O'Brien.

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

Citizen Comment

No one was signed to speak at the meeting.

Adoption of the Agenda

Motion/second to approve minutes of the June 24, 2024, meeting by Roy McClain/Jim O'Brien carried 3-0 with Members O'Brien, McClain and Newland voting in favor.

New Business

Minutes

Motion/second to approve June 24, 2024, Minutes by Roy McClain/Jim O'Brien carried 3-0 with Members O'Brien, McClain and Newland voting in favor.

Dexter Wimbush arrived at 6:05 p.m., bringing the number of members to 4 for voting.

Election Supervisor Report

Ms. Slaughter, Elections Supervisor, introduced new employees: Lorelai Smith as Elections System Coordinator, and Sheila Graham, Seasonal Employee. She then directed everyone's attention to Sandra Hardy's Voter Registration Report which detailed: 52,676 registered voters as of 8/13/23; DDS Voter Transaction total at 2948; Vital Records processed at 75; Mail in/Walk ins at 148; Online Voter Registration at 330; My Voter Page activity; and 41 Felons processed. Our office is processing various notices from the Secretary of State's Office, i.e., ERIC, NCOA for out of county, out of state and within county. We are currently undergoing our annual physical voter card audit. Beginning 8/19/24, we will begin accepting Absentee by Mail applications. We are working to arrange a Voter Information Event during the week of 9/20-28/2024 to take place at the Griffin Kiwanis Fairgrounds.

Ms. Slaughter continued with Voter Registration update, GARVIS update which is seeing improvements, DDS record activity that processed without the voter registration card images attached, the Out of County report for which we are still awaiting information from the Secretary of State's (SOS) office, My Voter Page which allows cancellation of a voter registration record by the voter and which is being monitored, ELM module related to address changes in county collected by SOS office, duplicate voter registrations on the GARVIS dashboard which has improved, and updates/maintenance by SOS to GARVIS.

She provided an update on the County's moving the Advance Voting Location to the UGA Extension Office in the Memorial Drive complex. The renovated area should be ready for staging by October 1, 2024. The

second stage will be to review the facility and see what updates are needed so the County can proceed with changes. She conveyed her gratitude to the Board of Commissioners for these actions to better serve voters.

Precinct 10 – Carver Road Fire Station relocation process has identified Oak Hill Church as a possible site since Carver Road Baptist Church’s Board voted in opposition to having Carver Road Baptist as a site.

The SOS office provided a Cyber Security Workshop on August 7, and Ms. Slaughter, Ms. Hardy, and Tony Clay, along with Joe Scimeca with Liberty Technology, attended. The workshop was beneficial in educating everyone about how to prepare for a cyber-attack. This is an ongoing effort with IT and Glenn Polk with the Emergency Management department of the county. Protocols are being developed in case of such attack.

Ms. Slaughter noted we are presently pulling all Ballot Marking Devices to ensure that batteries are charging appropriately, that a ballot can print, and resolving any issues that may arise. We have completed the health check of voting equipment for six precincts, along with Advance Voting equipment. We will ensure plenty of batteries are available and provide a complete update upon completion. Finally, the week of August 26-30, 2024, will be allocated for training for Election Officials and will be held in Forsyth, Georgia.

The Legislators’ Workshop is proposed for Friday, August 23, 2024, from 9:00 am until 11:00 am. We can notice such a meeting with 24 hours advance notice or notice for at least a week and cancel if not necessary. Roy McClain noted we need to fix these issues before the next legislation session in January 2025. Attorney Windham noted she had already given them a redlined version to review in advance of the meeting. She agreed that a legislative workshop was needed.

Ms. Slaughter provided a flyer that identified the following dates to note: October 7 is voter registration deadline, the weeks of Oct. 15-19, 21-26, and Oct. 28-Nov. 1 will be Advance (Early) Voting; October 25 will be the deadline for Absentee by Mail applications, and November 5, 2025, will be Election Day.

Old Business – There was none.

Board Members’ Comments

Jim O’Brien thanked Spalding County for their approval of expansion.

Roy McClain noted it was good to be back and thanked everyone for the well wishes in weeks past.

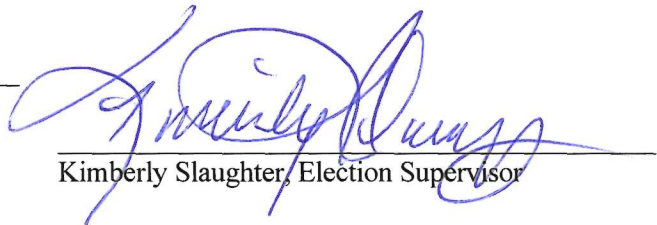
Dexter Wimbish welcomed Roy McClain back, noting there had been prayers during his treatment. He noted his appreciation for Kim Slaughter and commented that Spalding County is better off for her service.

James Newland noted he was glad that Dexter Wimbish would serve another term and that he appreciated the current composition of the Board. He, too, thanked Kim and would be glad to see Early Voting.

Adjournment

Motion/second to adjourn at 6:45 p.m. by Roy McClain/Jim O’Brien carried unanimously at 4-0.


James Newland, Vice Chair


Kimberly Slaughter, Election Supervisor