

**MONTHLY MEETING OF THE EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD OF  
ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATIONS**

**January 13, 2021 @ 9:30 A.M.**

**Board of Elections & Registration Office  
284 GA Highway 119 South, Springfield, GA 31329**

The Board of Elections and Registration held its monthly meeting on January 13, 2021.

**PERSONS ATTENDING THE MEETING AND ROLL CALL:**

Those present were; Vice Chairman Glenda King, Secretary Carla Freels, Board Member Ruth Brown, Board Member Rose Harvey and Director Olivia Morgan and Assistant Director Laura Bassett. Also present was Democratic Party Chairman Tony Chiariello and John Freels. Not present was Chairman Tommy Allen.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Vice Chairman King called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. Vice Chairman King led the Invocation and the Pledge was recited. The meeting was properly advertised.

**AGENDA APPROVAL:**

The Agenda was presented, and it was approved as presented to the Board.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes from the December 8, 2020 Board Meeting were presented. Board Member Brown made a motion to approve the minutes. Board Member Harvey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**HEARING:**

Vice Chairman King called for any names to be presented for a Hearing. Assistant Director Bassett stated that there were no names on the hearing list.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Director Morgan gave a recap of the January 5, 2021 Runoff.
  - It was the highest turn out on record in Effingham County for a runoff.
  - Director Morgan was out sick the week prior to the election.
  - Two polling places had scanner issues on Election Day. A seal had become stuck in the scanner tray. Director Morgan quickly solved the issue.
  - During early voting there were Poll Watchers every day and at most every polling place on Election Day. Poll Watchers caused some problems by speaking with voters and giving them voting advice.
  - A scanner was damaged by the delivery crew during pickup. It fell off the lift gate of the truck as it was being loaded.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Budget request:
  - We have used 54% of our current budget, this does not include the runoff.
  - The requested budget amendment was approved.
  - This budget will have a request for a 4<sup>th</sup> fulltime office staff, building addition and salary increase for all full time office staff.
  - No due date yet for the budget.
- Director Morgan reported that she received several requests for an intergovernmental agreement from the City of Guyton asking the Board of Elections to take over their city elections. Director Morgan stated that we were currently busy holding the 2020 General Election and the General Runoff. The City Clerk from Guyton then sent an email saying that they were working on the intergovernmental agreement with the County and needed some specific information regarding qualifying. Director Morgan called County Manager Tim Callanan, who stated that he had directed Guyton to contact the Board of Elections. County Manager Callanan reiterated that fact in another email to Guyton. Director Morgan discussed the upcoming amount of work that needs to be done in 2021 before the next election cycle in 2022 such as catching up on filing and paperwork from 2020, creating new standards of practice for the office and training for poll workers, reapportionment and redistricting, locating possibly eight or more new polling locations, GAVREO conference, possible building renovations and training a new full time worker. Based on current workload and staffing, Director Morgan recommended not to take on any more additional duties. The Board Members had a discussion and unanimously decided not to take on the Guyton elections if Chairman Allen also agreed. Director Morgan said she would call him after the meeting and email the board with his decision.

**BOARD OR STAFF CONCERNS:**

- There were no board of staff concerns.


**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- No executive session was necessary.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

No further business was required. There was no objection for meeting adjournment. Meeting was adjourned at 10:26 AM. The next board meeting will be scheduled for February 8, 2021 at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carla Freels, Secretary