

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

February 8, 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 February 8, 2021.

PERSONS ATTENDING THE MEETING AND ROLL CALL:

Those present were; Chairman Tommy Allen, 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, John Freels, Effingham County Manager Tim Callanan, Guyton Mayor Russ Deen, Guyton Councilperson Hursula Pelote, Effingham Herald reporter Mark Lastinger, Gordon and Rebecca Brooks. Not present was Vice Chairman Glenda King.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Allen called the meeting to order at 9:32 A.M. Chairman Allen 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 January 13, 2021 Board Meeting were presented. Board Member Harvey made a motion to approve the minutes. Board Member Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed.

HEARING:

Chairman Allen 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:

- No old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Guyton Mayor Russ Deen gave his views on why he would like for our office to take over operations for Guyton's municipal elections.
 - Board Member Harvey talked about different options for Guyton and why it would be a hardship for Effingham County to take over Guyton's or all of the municipalities' elections.

- Director Morgan gave a list of jobs and tasks that will need to be completed in 2021, including a possible special election in November, reapportionment and redistricting, new polling places, new poll worker training and training a fourth fulltime employee and possible building expansion.
- County Manager Tim Callanan confirmed the possible SPLOST for November.
- Gordon Brooks offered his opinion on using high school students as workers.
- Guyton Councilperson Hursula Pelote also asked that the County take over the Guyton Municipal elections.
- Rebecca Brooks brought up her concerns about using Dominion voting equipment.
- Board Member Harvey made a motion to table any more discussion on Guyton's request until the next meeting. Board Member Brown seconded the motion. Motion passed with no objection.
- Director Morgan reported that she submitted the department budget to the County. The budget included requests for a wage increase for current staff, a 4th fulltime employee for the office and a capital request for \$250,000 for an addition to our current building. Director Morgan showed a map of the proposed expansion. The budget also had increases for election fees and office fees. She has also requested to buy the collection boxes for inside each of the polling place scanners and use of a FBI certified shredding service for old office documents.
- Director Morgan talked about the number of active voters and the need for more polling places and poll workers.
- Secretary Freels made a motion to accept the budget as outlined. Board Member Harvey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

BOARD OR STAFF CONCERNS:

- There were no board of staff concerns.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- The board went into executive session at 10:55AM to discuss personnel and litigation. Board Member Brown made a motion to exit executive session at 11:23. Secretary Freels seconded the motion. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

No further business was required. There was no objection for meeting adjournment. Meeting was adjourned at 11:23AM. The next board meeting will be scheduled for March 8, 2021 at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted:



Carla Freels, Secretary