

**TIFT COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION
BOARD MEETING
MONDAY – FEBRUARY 22, 2021**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Taylor, Kimbrough, Robinson, Paulk, McKee

OFFICE STAFF PRESENT: Dollison, Holley

ATTENDEES PRESENT:

SUPERINTENDENT- McKee called the meeting to order.

MINUTES:

The minutes were read silently by each Board Member. Robinson made a motion to approve the minutes. Kimbrough seconded.

BUDGET:

Dollison explained that we had gone over budget due to the 2020 Elections. She stated that we spent \$3691.17 for postage when we only had \$3000 for postage. Robinson made a motion to approve the budget. Kimbrough seconded.

GENERAL AGENDA ITEMS:

Dollison spoke with Penny Houston and Sparks. They had signed off on Kimbrough's reappointment. The Commission will adopt a resolution so that reappointment can take place. At this point, Kimbrough is waiting for the call from Suzanne Johnson.

McKee wanted to know if she should be presently sworn in. Dollison said that it would be done in July.

Dollison stated that the budget needs to be increased on postage. Taylor made a motion to increase poll workers pay by \$20. Kimbrough seconded. Paulk said that he wanted to do a training similar to the Field Technician training, and it should be considered in the budget.

Dollison and Holley attended the Redistricting Regional Meeting in Valdosta. ARC VIEW was discussed. It is going to be beneficial during redistricting.

House Bill 531 wants to do away with Sunday voting. If the bill passes, the days for requesting an absentee ballot will also be reduced.

Dollison gave the due dates for the Personal Financial Disclosures and the Campaign Disclosure Reports.

The Election building was cleaned from top to bottom. Old files were shredded. The voting equipment will be moved and stored so Joey can easily access it to load and unload before and after Elections.

Dollison asked Taylor to read the Thank You letter we sent to the Post Office and to the Tift County employees who played a part in assisting our Elections Office during the 2020 Elections.

There was no other business from the Board.

Meeting Adjourned

Minutes prepared by:

Shekia Holley

Shekia Holley, Election Technician

Thad Paulk, 2019 Superintendent

Amos Kimbrough

Amos Kimbrough

Stephanie C. McKee

Stephanie C. McKee

Perry Taylor

Perry Taylor

Pat Robinson

Pat Robinson



Tift County

Board of Elections & Registration

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BOARD MEMBERS

AMOS KIMBROUGH
JAMES PERRY TAYLOR
PATRICIA ROBINSON
THAD PAULK
STEPHANIE C. MCKEE

LEILA E DOLLISON
ELECTION SUPERVISOR

SHEKIA M HOLLEY
ELECTION TECHNICIAN

January 29, 2021

Great Job and Thank you to Everyone! We want to thank everyone for your hard work in helping us complete this unprecedented 2020 Election Cycle. We could not have done any of this without you all. From opening absentee ballot applications, processing ballots, processing applications, filing, answering the phones, working the polls during Advance Voting, Election Day, the hand recount and most importantly your support.

This election cycle started in February with the Special Election to fill the unexpired term of Senator Greg Kirk. In addition, we had a new voting system that we did not know how it was going to work. However, you all were here to help us all the way. Our support started from the Administration Department, with Finance Director Diane Kelly leading the way and County Clerk Miriam Jordan following suit. These ladies were instrumental in not only processing voters but was a huge help in backing voters out on Election Day. That saved time for us and the voters.

This support only led to other departments helping us as well. Human Resource Director Mike Walker and Pay Roll Manger Vicki Roberts made sure we had new Poll workers processed correctly and paid on time. We received help from the Tax Commissioners Office, Chad Alexander sent Becky Zuniga, Kellie Cross, Kim Merritt, Mona Valdez, and Amber Flanders from his office to help us for the PPP and General Election. These ladies worked nonstop to help us get to a place where we could see daylight. Our IT Department is second to none. Al Stephenson, Kasey King and Chad Branch are a part of us. Since this election cycle started they have spent more time with us than in their own office. They program all of our voting machines and keep all of our equipment running according to code. From Fire and Rescue, Joey Fowler, Allen Owens and Billy Young, what can I say,

they are our backbone. They deliver and setup the voting machines. They help us in so many ways that are too numerous to count.

Then came the Big Kahunas –EMS Director Vickie Hickman and 911 Director Tina Gay. They setup shop with us and never left until after the election. They processed voters, absentee ballot applications, absentee ballots, greeted the public, answered the phones and helped with the hand recount. Tina's son, Ethan, was on hand to help sort mail and anything else we needed. It was truly a team effort. In addition, Wathtiki Crawford was a part of the team to help us as well. Wathtiki helped during the hand recount and worked as an Election Tech on Election Day. From the Recreation Department, Craig Sowell and Jeff Howard brought tables for the hand recount and sent Dayvia Marin to help us file and sort applications for easy access. From Development Support Services, Chris Davis sent Vickie Hampton to help us with anything we needed. Public Works Director Jason Jordan, one call that's all. Ken Marchant made sure we had proper signage out at the precincts.

From the Maintenance Department, Bacilio Gamez (Peanut) and Mark Fletcher are our go to guys for anything we need for the office and keeping the voters safe. They have our backs and they came when we called which was often. Chief Tax Assessor Hayward Becton, during the recount sent Jason Webrand, Austin Garcia and Bryan Duke. They were happy to do their part to help us get the job done. Additionally, they looked out for us by making sure we had our public notices when they posted in the paper. Charlotte Daniel helped us field calls as well which was a big help. From Animal Control Russell Gay helped us with shredding to clear space for upcoming records.

We had the support of our County Commissioners rooting for us and checking on us. Answering questions that sometime did not reach us. We appreciate that. They knew we had our hands full. Our County Attorneys Tony Rowell and Jennifer Dorminey Herzog kept us in compliance with Open Records Request. There were many days Jennifer and Miriam kept us sane by taking some of the pressures from records request off of us. Our Board of Elections helped us with training and finding poll workers. Due to COVID19, we had several workers to back out. Pat Robinson, our Education Coordinator, and Thad Paulk headed up poll worker training amid what seemed impossible; however, they persevered and got it done.

Sheriff Gene Scarbrough, had his deputies out in full force on Election Day and during the hand recount. They handled any issues we had that arose from possible campaign violations. Just to show you how much the County was there for us Clerk of Court Clay Pate would just come to see about us.

Our Superior Court Judge Bill Reinhardt rounded out our support helping us on Election Day with an Extended Hours Order. Finally, Mr. Carter "would say just let me know what you need". He always came through for us and came to check on us. Finding workers for Election Day was no exception. We called Mr. Carter to say we had workers that had backed out for Election Day, He said "I'll you call back" and had workers lined up to help. It does not get any better than that. I could go on and on. What I really want everyone to know from my (our) heart is that we really appreciate you all and we don't take it lightly. Tift County is a force to be reckoned with.

We are Tift County Strong and together we can do great things. Again, thank you - We Made it!!!!

Sincerely,

Leila E. Dollison
Elections Supervisor

Shekia M. Holley
Elections Technician