

AUG 20 2018

Grant Walraven  
Clerk

STATE OF GEORGIA  
COUNTY OF GORDON

The Gordon County Superior Court convened on Monday, June 4, 2018 at 9:00 a.m., with the Honorable Suzanne H. Smith, Judge, Superior Courts, Cherokee Circuit presiding. After Court was called to order, the following persons were selected as Grand Jurors for the June Term, 2018.

1. ASHLEY R. BROOKSHIRE, FOREPERSON

- |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2. STEVE C. HERNDON       | 13. ANITA R. SCHEETZ     |
| 3. SUMMER VICK            | 14. EMILIA E. ORANTES    |
| 4. SHALAINA LIPSCOMB      | 15. FLOYD BURK           |
| 5. APRIL M. CROSBY        | 16. LAURA-LEE STRONG     |
| 6. ERNEST JOE GENTRY, JR. | 17. JOHN H. WALRAVEN     |
| 7. MELANIE S. ARNOLD      | 18. FELICIA A. WRIGHT    |
| 8. JEANETTE BENNETT       | 19. DONALD I. STANLEY    |
| 9. ALISON I. LAVIANA      | 20. WILLIAM D. MEALOR    |
| 10. BARBARA ELLEN HENSLEY | 21. WHITNEY B. PATTERSON |
| 11. HANNAH M. WOODS       | 22. THOMAS BARROW        |
| 12. TIFFANY L. MILLER     | 23. JARED W. QUINN       |

The following members were elected to serve as officers for this Grand Jury:

- 1) ASHLEY R. BROOKSHIRE, FOREPERSON
- 2) ERNEST JOE GENTRY, JR., VICE FOREPERSON
- 3) JEANETTE BENNETT, CLERK
- 4) DONALD I. STANLEY, DOORPERSON
- 5) CLIFF ROBERTS & GARY MOORE, BAILIFFS

Judge D. Suzanne Smith charged and instructed the Grand Jury, which followed District Attorney Rosemary M. Greene administering the statutory oath to both the Foreperson and then to all other members of this Grand Jury, as well, as the required oaths to this grand jury's bailiffs.

We thank District Attorney Rosemary M. Greene and her Assistant District Attorneys for their legal opinions and the whole staff for the assistance in the proceedings as to criminal cases presented to this Grand Jury. We also commend our law enforcement personnel for the excellent job they do and thank the officers who appeared before this body from all the different local agencies for their efficiency, appearance and professionalism.

We thank our Bailiff, Mr. Gary Fuller, for his service and courtesy to this body and we recommend that Mr. Fuller be paid an additional day's pay for his performance and all extra duties and services that he provided this body. Additionally, we express our appreciation to the Clerk of Court, Grant Walraven, for providing refreshments.

1. We have examined all criminal cases presented by the District Attorney's Office and reported 72 True Bills and 3 No Bills.

2. In accordance with our statutory duties (O.C.G.A. § 36-1-7) on the first day of this term, this body received the written financial reports of the following county officials with a majority also voluntarily appeared and reviewed each report:

- (1) Hon. Mitch Ralston, Sheriff of Gordon County along with Chief Deputy Robert L. Paris & Major Pat Bedford;
- (2) Hon. Scott Clements, Tax Commissioner;
- (3) Hon. John R. (Richie) Parker, Judge of Probate Court;
- (4) Hon. Grant Walraven, Clerk of Court; and
- (5) Jim Ledbetter, County Attorney & Interim Administrator, Gordon County Board of Commissioners.

All financial reports have been examined and all are accepted as submitted. We appreciate and thank these officials for the job each is doing.

3. The Tax Execution Docket committee consisting of Jeanette Bennett, Ashley Brookshire, April Crosby and Hannah Woods, inspected our tax commissioner's Execution Docket and issued the following report:

When visiting with Tax Commissioner Clements, we observed the original log book that was used many years ago to track all taxes in Gordon County which was done by hand in a ledger. Now, in 2018, of course all of the taxes are kept on software which makes things much easier. While there are some taxes that are owed from years prior to 2017, Commissioner Clements advised that each year tax collections are continuously closer to 100%. There are policies that have been put into place

that are helping improve on property that has unfortunately been foreclosed on and then being settled by the new owner. 99% of 2015 taxes have been collected, 98% of 2016 taxes have been collected and 96% of 2017 taxes have been collected. As of June, 2018, the total property tax and title ad valorem tax that was collected for Gordon County totals \$33,559,834.44. We were all impressed with the knowledge and information that Commissioner Clements provided to us, and also appreciate the job he has done as tax commissioner.

4. In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 15-12-71(b)(1), this Grand Jury was designated as the one to conduct the annual inspection of the conditions and operations of the Gordon County Jail. The inspection committee members were Ernest Joe Gentry, Jr., Summer Vick, Melanie Arnold and Allison Laviana. Our report is as follows: The inspection at the Gordon County Sheriff's Office exceeded our expectations. We found the facility to be in excellent condition, staffed and run professionally, and we observed that all the prisoners are maintained appropriately. We thank Sheriff Mitch Ralston and his officers and staff for the tour of the new jail and offices, and also for the Sheriff's Auxiliary in providing a lunch following the tour. The Grand Jury specifically thanks Sheriff Mitch Ralston and his department for their work to be good stewards of the tax payer's money. The sheriff is operating the jail and the department in a fiscally conservative manner.

5. We authorize our Foreperson to call this Grand Jury back into session any time during our appointed term, if she warrants it to be necessary.


6. We recommend these presentments be spread upon the minutes of the Court and be published in the legal organ of Gordon County.

This 20th day August, 2018.

  
ASHLEY R. BROOKSHIRE  
FOREPERSON

  
ERNEST JOE GENTRY, JR.  
VICE FOREPERSON

  
JEANETTE BENNETT  
CLERK

  
DONALD I. STANLEY  
DOORPERSON

**ORDER OF THE COURT**

Presented in open court, let the same be filed and spread upon the minutes of the Court.

Let these presentments be published in the legal organ of Gordon County.

This 20th day of August, 2018.



---

HON. D. SCOTT SMITH  
JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURTS  
CHEROKEE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT