

AUG 19 2019

Grant Walraven
Clerk

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF GORDON

The Gordon County Superior Court convened on Monday, June 3, 2019 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, 2019.

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|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. William P. Deaton, Jr., Foreperson | 13. LeAnn Payne |
| 2. Cathy A. Smith | 14. Charles A. Moore |
| 3. Tennille Aker | 15. Katie Posey |
| 4. Candace Sweetman | 16. Karen D. Bartenfield |
| 5. Heather Holton Stewart | 17. Robert H. Mathews |
| 6. Mitchell Hurst | 18. Brian Eaton |
| 7. Barbara P. Payne | 19. Conner J. Fisher |
| 8. Sam L. Harwell | 20. William Ian Smither |
| 9. Sandra K. Hunt | 21. Shawn Denton |
| 10. Robin D. Tucker | 22. Marisa K. Haney |
| 11. Melodie Holland | 23. Sandra K. Hurlley |
| 12. Emmanuel Fernandez | |

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

- 1) William P. Deaton, Jr., Foreperson
- 2) Mitchell Hurst, Vice Foreperson
- 3) Candace Sweetman, Clerk
- 4) Sam L. Harwell, Doorperson
- 5) Bert Vaughn & Jim Johnson, 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 Bailiffs, Bert Vaughn and Jim Johnson, for their service and courtesy to this body and we recommend that they be paid an additional day's pay for their performance and all extra duties and services that they provided this body. Additionally, we express our appreciation to the Clerk of Court, Grant Walraven, for providing breakfast.

1. We have examined all criminal cases presented by the District Attorney's Office and reported 68 True Bills and 2 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, 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 inspection committee consisting of Robert Matthews, William Deaton, Heather Stewart and Sam Harwell, 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 2019, 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 2018, 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 2016 taxes have been collected, 98% of 2017 taxes have been collected and 96.5% of 2018 taxes have been collected. 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.

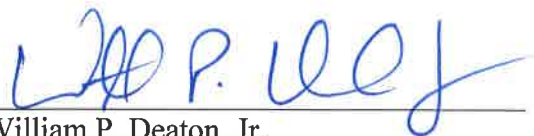
4. In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 15-12-71(b)(1), this Grand Jury was designated as the one to conduct the annual inspection of the conditions and operations of the Gordon County Jail. The inspection committee members were Chuck Moore, William Smither, Conner Fisher & Emmanuel Fernandez. Our report is as follows:

The inspection at the Gordon County Sheriff's Office exceeded our expectations. We found the facility to be in excellent condition except for a few ceiling tiles that had been damaged by water leaks and are being appropriately take care of. The Gordon County Jail is 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 he 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 19th day August, 2019.



William P. Deaton, Jr.
Foreperson



Mitchell Hurst
Vice Foreperson



Candace Sweetman
Clerk



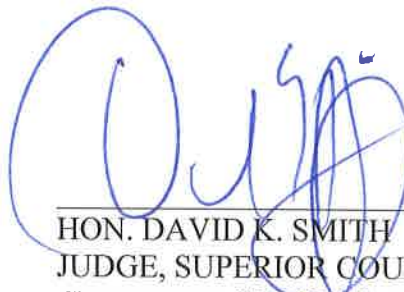
Sam L. Harwell
Doorperson

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 19th day of August, 2019.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. K. Smith', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

HON. DAVID K. SMITH
JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURTS
CHEROKEE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT