

MCINTOSH COUNTY
BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION
July 8, 2024
BOARD MEETING

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: David Gardner, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

INVOCATION: David Gardner

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: All Present

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: David Gardner - CHAIRMAN, Mary Fly – SECRETARY, Emily Holcomb, Rhoda Stachur, Toniae Thomas, Doll Gale – ELECTION SUPERVISOR and Jason Nix,- ATTORNEY. Mr. Gardner recognized that there was a quorum.

Mr. Gardner introduced the new Republican Board Member, Emily Holcomb.

Public Participation: Lonnie Teague – presented the name of a voter to be challenged to Mrs. Gale. He also presented a letter addressed to the Board Members requesting additions to the current website including a monthly agenda, approved minutes, general information (undescribed), and Board member contact information.

Tim Gardner was the second requestor to speak. He stated that the Republican Party had nominated Ms. Emily Holcomb for the open position of Board Member. There was some delay in that the County required the party to turn in paperwork to this office, forward it to the SOS office, get approval back before the nominee could be sworn in. Mr. T. Gardner stated that the paperwork was sent to the wrong department at the State, causing a delay with the result that the party had no representation that month. Mrs. Gale disagreed, stating that she did not send the paperwork to the wrong department but to Sandra Johnson. She continued, saying that the paperwork must be first received by the SOS office, then sent to this Voter Registration and Elections office before the candidate can be sworn in. Mrs. Gale stated that she had not received the approved paperwork from the State until after the June Board meeting but that they had tried to have Ms. Holcomb sworn in on June 20th. Because Mrs. Gale received no response from the candidate, they had to schedule the swearing in ceremony for June 28th. Mr. T. Gardner went on to say: Going forward they will no longer follow that procedure but will have the nominee fill out the paperwork and take it to Judge Webster to be sworn in.

Also, Mr. T. Gardner stated that the County required Ms. Holcomb to have a drug test and a physical prior to being sworn in. He felt that this situation should be addressed.

Mr. Nix added that after challenging the County hiring policy he advised to go ahead with the swearing in ceremony as the County policy for all employees to have the drug test and physical prior to hiring approval, was imposing additional qualifications, and was overstepping their authority as Ms. Holcomb had already met all State requirements for the position.

Additions to and Approval of Agenda: Emily Holcomb made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Rhoda Stachur seconded the motion. Fly, Holcomb, Stachur and Thomas voted to approve. Motion approved.

Reading of Minutes/Approval: Mr. Gardner asked Mrs. Fly to read the minutes of the June 10th Board meeting. Mrs. Fly made a motion to accept the June 10th minutes with two spelling corrections; Mrs. Stachur seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None.

REPORTS:

Supervisor: Mrs. Gale reported that the GARVIS system had been down for a few days for updates but is now running again. The SOS office will be voting tomorrow on a proposed amendment in SB 183. There will be a joint resolution from the Industrial Development Authority as well as the TSPLOST election on the November ballot. Mrs. Fly has completed her certification and Ms. Thomas and Stachur are working on theirs.

Chairman: Mr. Gardner had no comments at this time.

Attorney: Mr. Nix has provided a memorandum to the Board Members regarding the changes in the State laws (SB 183) that have or will come into effect soon.

NEXT BOARD MEETING Monday, August 12, 2024 AT 6:00 PM at the office.

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS:

MOTION TO ADJOURN was made by Mary Fly and seconded by Rhoda Stachur. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 6:31 PM.

DAVID GARDNER, CHAIRMAN

MARY FLY, SECRETARY