

MCINTOSH COUNTY
BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION
July 11, 2022
BOARD MEETING

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: DeCalvin Hughes at 6:04 PM.

INVOCATION: DeCalvin Hughes

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: All Present

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: DeCalvin Hughes - CHAIRMAN, Mary Fly – SECRETARY, Joseph Washington and Doll Gale – ELECTION SUPERVISOR. Mr. Hughes recognized that there was a quorum.

GUESTS: Tim and Beverly Gardner, Bill Johnson, George Deverger, William Harrell, Allen & Linda Gravett, Linda Daniels and Kathleen Russell. Jason Nix, atty for the Board was also an invited guest. Tim Gardner, George Deverger and Bill Johnson each requested time to address the Board during the meeting.

Mr. Hughes asked the board to read over the minutes of June 13 and 24, 2022 and to entertain the motion to accept, change or make corrections.

MOTION to Accept June 13th minutes without corrections was made by Mary Fly and seconded by Joseph Washington. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION to Accept June 24th minutes without corrections was made by Joseph Washington and seconded by Mary Fly. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

OLD BUSINESS: None

Mr. Gardner presented two letters from McIntosh residents, Candler Strickland and Tim Gardner, Jr. requesting that Tim Gardner speak on their behalf to request that the Elections Supervisor contact any voter whose signature doesn't match their current information on file in order to verify it before disqualifying it. These letters are included and made a part of these minutes. Mr. Gardner also presented several reports by poll watchers from the two previous elections that he asked to be addressed by the Board. He submitted the poll watcher reports and will send written questions to Mr. Hughes as soon as possible. Mr. Gardner also requested that his particular race be recounted.

Mr. Hughes explained that the Board is happy to examine all written complaints and questions posed after the meeting and that they will be answered as soon as possible

to the person requesting them. The Board would have to do research to be able to quote the specific Georgia code that answers the questions.

Mr. George Deverger then spoke to the group. He is running as an Independent candidate for Commissioner. He was required to get 124 signatures to qualify for this candidacy and indeed got 228. His question concerned 46 signatures that were disqualified. He did not understand the reasoning. Mr. Hughes explained that the code of Georgia 21-2-170 states "It is essential to the validity of a signature that it appears on a petition be in a manner identical to that in which it appears on the voter registration list." [top p.144] Mr. Hughes went on to say, "No one in this office has the authority to have an opinion on a signature – all information must match." Mr. Deverger asked if there was a way to challenge signature decisions. Mr. Hughes instructed him to put his request in writing and the Board could get an answer back to him. Mr. Nix told him no one could give legal advice except his own attorney.

Mr. Bill Johnson spoke to the group next. He specifically wanted to know why David Stephens entered the precinct after the polls were closed. He said the door was unlocked for him. Mrs. Gale said she thought he wanted to check the numbers at closing. Mr. Nix said that it would be speculation for anyone to say the reason why Mr. Stephens wanted to go inside the precinct. Mr. Hughes asked Mr. Johnson to put his question in writing so that it could be answered appropriately.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Mrs. Gale reported that the roof had been repaired. The four Dominion machines that were water damaged from the roof leak, were checked out by Dominion technicians, and said to be in good working order. The four printers affected by the same roof leak were not repairable and will have to be replaced. The insurance will cover this loss as it is an Act of God. None of this equipment was used during the election.

Petitions with appropriate signatures are due at 12 noon tomorrow for candidates to qualify to run in the Nov. election.

There will be a class offered in August in Macon, GA for instructions on the Dominion equipment.

Voter lists from poll pad check-ins at the Run-off election have been returned.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: None.

NEXT BOARD MEETING Monday, August 8, 2022 AT 6:00 PM at the office. Remember, Monthly meetings have been changed to the second Monday of each month.

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS:

MOTION TO ADJOURN was made by Joseph Washington and seconded by Mary Fly. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 6:55 PM.

DECALVIN HUGHES, CHAIRMAN

MARY FLY, SECRETARY