MONTGOMERY COUNTY
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Teddi Benson Chairperson
John Adams, Secretary
Debbie Burris, Member
Dree Wynkoop, Member
Tasha Medley, Member

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 9, 2024
5:30p.m.

The Montgomery County Board of Elections (BOE) met July 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at the BOE Office located at 327 N. Main St in Troy, NC. Present were Dree Wynkoop, John Adams, Tasha Medley, Debbie Burris, and Teddi Benson.

Chairperson Benson called the meeting to order at 5:29 pm.

Minutes from June 11, 2024, were approved.

The agenda was not approved for the meeting because Member Medley requested the budget be added back to Old Business. It was approved to add the Budget back to old business. Burris made the motion to approve the agenda and Member Wynkoop seconded the motion. All were in favor.

There was no Director of Elections' Report. Director Johnson was out on medical leave. She will be back the week of 7/12/2024.

Old Business

Member Medley wanted some clarity on items, Travel and Meals and Conferences. The board members would like a copy of the new budget emailed to them.
Along with questions about Conferences on the budget, each board member stated they would not be going to this conference.

Public Comment

George Knight spoke at the meeting. He stated that he had a problem with the article in the paper dated 6/20/2024. George Knight went on to say someone was suggesting fraud against the director and not one of the board members had sent in a rebuttal. He wanted to know why they were not protecting their director. He then moved on to the issue at the Wadeville precinct. He wanted to know did any of the board help her with the situation. The board stated they did not know about Wadesville issues. Several members had received phone calls and/or emails but did not know the extent of the issue until they came in for the meeting at 5:00pm. Chairperson Benson told George Knight what happened, and the issue was still - under investigation and all parties are submitting written testimony as to what happened that day. Several of the workers at different precincts say they will not work the polls again. Mr. Knight was correct that all precinct workers should have access to bathrooms and feel safe.

Member Medley also stated the issue was under investigation. That is why none of the board had responded to the article in the Montgomery Herald. She also stated they were not trying to "throw Rhonda under the bus.

Secretary Adams explained to George Knight that the board members could not go to the precincts and involve themselves in an issue because at some point they may need to rule on the issue.

Chairperson Benson thanked Mr. Knight for coming to the meeting with his concerns and invited him back to future meetings. She also told him that normal practice is to broadcast the meetings via Zoom and minutes of the meetings are posted on the website if he is unable to attend.

New Business

Soil and Water filing ended July 5, 2024, at 12:00 and Municipal filing for Troy and Star started at 12:00. Along with Handy Sanitary filing will last from July 5 - 19. We had 4 files for candidacy. There were 2 from Star and 2 from Troy.

Our SST Steve Adams came down to help set up the signature verification machine for the Signature Verification Pilot test. He ran the test and Montgomery County only had one person that did not match. The board reviewed the signature and decided it matched.

With no further business at hand, and no other comments, Chairperson Benson called for a motion to adjourn. Member Wynkoop gave the motion with a second from Member Burris. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 6:13p.m.

Leslie L. Benson _____ **CHAIR**

_____ **SECRETARY**

_____ **MEMBER**

_____ **MEMBER**

_____ **MEMBER**

Montgomery County Board of Elections