

**OPERATIONS & PERSONNEL  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
January 21, 2020  
5:30 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Linda Little  
Bryan Smith, Vice Chair  
John Jackson  
Patty Cox  
Bill Oliver  
Grant Noland

**COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT**

Carol Reed, Auditor  
Mary Eaton, Recorder  
Josh Tanner, County Clerk  
Debbie Wright, Workforce  
Jeannie Durham, County Board Office

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Rachel Joy

The meeting was called to order by Chair Linda Little at the Macon County Office Building.

**MINUTES**

Motion to approve minutes of prior meeting (11/18/19) made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Cox, and motion carried 6-0.

**APPROVAL OF PAYROLL AND CLAIMS**

Motion to approve payroll as presented made by Ms. Cox, seconded by Mr. Jackson and the motion carried 6-0.

Motion to approve claims as presented made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Jackson and the motion carried 6-0.

**REPORTS**

*Auditor's Office –*

***Macon County Board Resolution Approving a Decrease n the Mileage Reimbursement Rate***

Ms. Reed explained that the resolution changes the rate paid by the County from 58 cents to 57.5 which goes along with the Federal IRS guidelines. It went down this year.

Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve forwarding the resolution on to the Finance Committee with recommendation to approve, seconded by Ms. Cox and the motion carried 6-0.

Ms. Reed distributed a section of the employee handbook entitled Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace and explained that they would be speaking with Mr. Baggett about it to see if it has to

be approved by resolution or not, but it is just a change to the employee handbook to add the word cannabis in there twice. It mentions consumption of any amount of alcohol or illegal narcotics. Cannabis is not illegal any more so she said they felt that they needed to put cannabis in to specifically mention it. She said it is being brought to this group and if Mr. Baggett determines that a resolution is needed, it will be brought to next month's meeting.

Mr. Noland asked about drug testing of county employees. Ms. Reed explained that the county does not do random or employment screening tests, but some individual departments such as the Sheriff's Department or Highway Department might. The only time testing is done countywide is if there would be an accident or something.

### ***County Board – No Report***

#### ***County Clerk –***

Mr. Tanner reported that voting begins February 6<sup>th</sup>.

On December 30<sup>th</sup>, the State Board of Elections had sent a letter that said that 7 voters in Macon County went to the driver's license facility and either made an address change or something and they were presented with the question, are you a US citizen and they answered no. Mr. Tanner explained that that should have been the end of the process for those people, but there was some type of error in the Secretary of State's system and those people were forwarded on to the County Clerk for registration. So, the list was received in December. It was gone through and one of them had already moved and subsequent to that, their registration is cancelled anyway. Voter history was reviewed for the rest of them and they have been sent a letter letting them know that they have 10 days to come in and clarify the situation. Most of them have, at some point in time, registered in the County Clerk's office and they marked the box yes, on the US citizen question. So, it is very likely that they either did not understand the question as it was presented, or touched the wrong spot on the touch pad. They now have 10 days to respond and if they don't, their registration will be cancelled. It is a little unfortunate because if the system had been working the way it was designed, none of that information would have been forwarded to the County Clerk's office and this action of notifying them that they need to come in and clear it up or have it cancelled would not be necessary. There is only one voter that voted in the 2018 election. This voter has a long, long history in Macon County and has had multiple contacts with the County Clerk's office each time attesting that they are a citizen. This time is not certain until they come in and clear it up, but based on all of the information in the office, it appears that they are a citizen and they just incorrectly marked the box when they went to the Secretary of State's office.

Chair Little asked a questions about documents. Mr. Tanner replied that most of the documents should establish citizenship, but you are attesting that you are a citizen. Ms. Cox commented that there is a statement on there that if you are untruthful, you could be imprisoned. Mr. Tanner agreed. Ms. Little said that if you can't ask them to bring in documentation, you can't prove anything. Mr. Tanner said they are required to provide two forms of identification, but they don't

necessarily have to be a drivers license. The list of things should get you what you are looking for. You don't have to be a citizen to get a drivers license.

Recapping, Mr. Tanner said that one of the 7 was cancelled. Only one of the 7 voted in 2018 election. The timeframe this occurred was July 2, 2018 to December 13, 2019. There have only been 2 elections; the municipal and the 2018 general election. Only one of these people voted in the 2018 election and that person has a long history with the office and they have signed multiple forms attesting that they are a citizen. He said he was going to have all of them except the one that is already cancelled come in and clear up the situation. He said he believes most of them are citizens. There is only one person on the list that they do not have any real history with. So, it is hard to say whether that person is a citizen or not, but they have not voted yet. So, it has not been a problem. Mr. Smith asked if the others had history. Mr. Tanner said they do and that includes registrations with the office in person. It was marked yes, I am a citizen. That is why Mr. Tanner said he believes that they are citizens. He said he believes that it is an electronic keypad that they are using to answer questions and either they did not understand the question as it was presented, or they just mis-keyed because except for the one, the office has information where they have checked the box, yes, I am a US citizen. They'll have to come in and clear it up. If they don't come in and the registration is cancelled, which would be done prior to early voting on 2/6/2020, if they produce the documents, they can re-register and vote in the office all the way up to and including Election Day. So, if none of these remaining 6 people respond and are cancelled, they would still be able to vote if they come in and produce the right documents. It will just be a little longer wait for them. The State Board of Elections says that all of those people were notified of the error and were directed to contact the County Clerk's Office, but Mr. Tanner said that to his knowledge, none of them have. A letter is also being sent from the County Clerk to let them know their registration would be cancelled if they do not come in. It is unfortunate because they seemingly did everything they were supposed to, except answer the question correctly, and the state forwarded it anyway. Mr. Oliver asked about the date deadline. Mr. Tanner said he had set it at 10 days. He said he'd like to get this cleared up and even if they come in on Election Day, they can re-register and vote. They will just need to bring the proper identification. Identification is only required when you register; not when you vote. It is unfortunate that it happened, but all of the people were identified. They have all been contacted. This will be the second time and hopefully it will get resolved.

Mr. Oliver asked if there is no deadline to register like there used to be. Mr. Tanner said no, you can register to vote on Election Day. He said you can always go online to the State Board of Elections website to register. You can get there from the County website. That is the easiest way to do it. You provide information. They verify you are who you say you are. They get you registered.

The narrative is that elections are not secure, but this is a very small number that is taken seriously. He said when they were notified, they did their due diligence and they will be purged from the rolls if they don't belong there, but they want to give every opportunity to come in and

clear it up. This was not something that they did. It was a mistake on the Secretary of State's part.

Voting starts 2/6/2020. Extended hours which are required by state law will be sent out. Everyone is encouraged to come in and vote early. It's just a little easier. We have a handicap accessible building, handicap accessible parking, etc. It reduces the stress on the polling place during Election Day. Absentee ballots can be requested now, but are not mailed out until the first day of early voting. Excuses are not needed. The form can be downloaded from the website and mailed in or brought in. They have been slowly coming in as people leave for Florida or warmer places. That is becoming more and more popular. Unfortunately, for the County, that is more expensive. It is very expensive to a) produce the documents. It involves about 4 envelopes and then it has to be mailed to them. Printing them and mailing them is expensive, but it is something that the Legislators seems to be looking favorably at. At this time, absentee ballots have to be requested for each election. Legislation has been proposed to create a permanent mail list, but that has not passed. The problem is that with each Primary, you get to decide which ballot you want, Republican or Democrat or other.

***Recorder –***

Ms. Eaton distributed monthly reports and offered to answer questions. There were no questions.

***Workforce Investments –***

Ms. Wright explained that Ms. Wilkerson is out of town and she would be filling in. Notification has been received from DCEO that they have received the Innovative Health Care Grant for \$225,000. It will begin March 1<sup>st</sup>. They are waiting for the documentation for signatures.

Two long term employees, Karen Allen & Dana Miller, have retired and the rest of them are all frantically trying to pick up their workload. It has been very busy.

On 1/8/2020, there was a Fuyao hiring event held where there were over 300 people that came through. That was very exciting.

**Citizen's Remarks - none**

**Old Business - none**

**New Business – none**

**CLOSED SESSION *None needed***

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, February 24, 2020

**ADJOURNMENT** The meeting was adjourned by Chair Little at 5:45 p.m.

*Minutes submitted by Jeannie Durham, County Board Office*