

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Ken Raymond
Chairman

Stuart Russell
Secretary

Fleming El-Amin
Member



Robert H. Coffman
Director of Elections

Lamar Joyner
Deputy Director

FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEETING MINUTES – JULY 16, 2013

Call to Order

An Organizational meeting of the Forsyth County Board of Elections was held in the Cooper Cardwell Elections Room on July 16, 2013. The meeting convened at 12:05 PM, being called to order by Past Chairman Linda Sutton. Chairman Ken Raymond also presided.

Board Members in attendance: Past Chairman Linda Sutton, Chairman Ken Raymond, Secretary Stuart Russell, Member Fleming El-Amin

Staff Members in attendance: Director Robert Coffman, Judy Speas

Members Oath of Office

Past Chairman Sutton invited District Court Judge Victoria Roemer to give the oath of office to the newly appointed Board of Elections members. Members were sworn into office in the order of Fleming El-Amin, Ken Raymond and Stuart Russell as a crowd of visitors gave their approval. Past Chairman Sutton then rendered the direction of the meeting to Mr. Coffman.

Select Chairman

Mr. Coffman, as moderator, began the next order of business to select the offices of the Board of Elections. The members were invited to nominate a Chairman. Mr. Russell nominated Ken Raymond to be Chairman. Mr. Coffman requested that the members vote for the office of Chairman. Mr. Raymond and Mr. Russell voted to elect Ken Raymond to be Chairman. Mr. Coffman stated that Ken Raymond was selected as Chairman.

Select Secretary

Mr. Coffman then invited the members to nominate a Secretary of the Board of Elections. Chairman Raymond nominated Stuart Russell to be Secretary. Mr. El-Amin nominated Fleming El-Amin. Mr. Coffman requested that the members vote for the office of Secretary. Chairman Raymond and Mr. Russell voted to elect Stuart Russell to be Secretary. Mr. El-Amin voted to elect Fleming El-Amin. Mr. Coffman stated that Stuart Russell was selected as Secretary.

Member Statements

Chairman Raymond stated that he considered it a great honor to serve on the Board and to be an integral part in the process of elections. Voter integrity is vital in establishing freedom; individuals and communities throughout the state can direct their own paths. Chairman Raymond stated that he would work to insure voter integrity and voter compliance with state law to promote fairness in elections. Chairman Raymond stated that he had worked as a precinct judge or greeter for the last eighteen years. He encouraged all Board members to drop in during Early Voting to insure that the process ran smoothly. Chairman Raymond thanked the visitors for attending the meeting.

Secretary Russell stated that the position was a great honor that would be taken seriously. He agreed with the Chairman's statements and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Member El-Amin thanked the previous Board members for their phenomenal job. He stated that he had been involved with the political process in the community for a very long time. As a Board member, he stated that he would owe three things: transparency; fairness to all; and, access to the voter process to all citizens of Forsyth County. Member El-Amin thanked everyone for their vote of confidence to represent them.

Restrictions on Election Board Members

Mr. Coffman presented a document from the Attorney General to be used as a resource tool regarding the political involvement of the members of a County Board of Elections. He explained that political activity with the county and state party should be highly stifled during a member's tenure. If needed, an in-house counsel would be available for research or questions in the county government or State Board of Elections.

State Training Session

Mr. Coffman presented information for the State Board of Elections Annual Training for County Election Officials. The next training session required under general statute would be held Wednesday, August 21 and Thursday, August 22, 2013 in Cary, NC. Registration would be finalized and expenses would be reimbursed for the members.

Other Business

Chairman Raymond requested that an Elections staff person instruct him with the voter registration process. Mr. Coffman agreed that all Board members could meet and receive instruction from the staff. The municipal election year would provide a time for an easier transition period.

Chairman Raymond stated that the Board members would meet on August 20, 2013 to appoint precinct officials. Mr. Coffman explained that the local political parties make recommendations to the Board of Elections as to the selection of precinct judges. Two Republican judges and one Democratic judge would be selected for each precinct.

Adjournment

Chairman Raymond moved and Secretary Russell seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried** and the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM.

Approved:

_____	_____
Ken Raymond, Chair	Date
_____	_____
Stuart Russell, Secretary	Date
_____	_____
Fleming El-Amin, Member	Date

Attachments on File: none