

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Mrs. Charles A. Cardwell, Jr.
CHAIR

J. Eric Elliott
SECRETARY

John A. Redding
MEMBER



Kathie Chastain Cooper
DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEETING- JANUARY 26, 2006

Present: Mrs. Charles A. Cardwell, Jr., Chair
Mr. J. Eric Elliott, Secretary
Mr. John A. Redding, Member

Staff: Mrs. Kathie Chastain Cooper, Director of Elections
Mrs. Laura Gerardi-Dell, Deputy Director of Elections
Mrs. Pamela Johnson, Administrative Assistant

Call To Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes- January 18, 2006

Mr. Elliott moved to approve the minutes for January 18, 2006. Mr. Redding seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Update on Voting Equipment Purchase

Mrs. Cooper stated there was a purchase order done for 111 iVotronic voting machines in December to comply with the HAVA grant deadline. Another purchase order has been issued for the additional 4 iVotronic voting machines, as well as 105 M100 Optical Scan units, along with all the necessary peripherals. The Chief Financial Officer for Forsyth County agreed to execute the purchase order without a contract so that the voting equipment can be ordered.

Mrs. Cooper stated she has checked into the recent HAVA grant that would cover most of the voting equipment. The grant amount is 1.1 million dollars. There are items that you must have in order to apply for the grant. We have all of the items except for the contract. Once the contract is in place, an application will be submitted.

Voting Place Change

Mrs. Dell stated she visited Fraternity Church of the Brethren to see if it is a suitable replacement for Ward Elementary School (precinct 709). The school staff had complained about the traffic on Election Day and the voters have complained about the

parking and the long walk from the parking lot to the voting location. Mrs. Dell stated there were some problems with Fraternity Church of the Brethren. One problem is a threshold that would make it difficult for those with disabilities to maneuver. It is a problem that could possibly be resolved, but that is not certain. She also stated that the classrooms that could possibly be voting areas are very small. She stated the location may not be conducive to a large election. Mrs. Dell stated that while Fraternity Church of the Brethren could be made to conform, she did not recommend the location for a voting place. The Board recommended talking with the staff at Ward Elementary School to see if there could be designated parking on Election Day that would be closer to the door and make it easier to get to the voting location. The Board also suggested checking for other suitable voting places within that precinct boundary.

Mr. Elliott stated that another problem precinct is the WSFC School Administration Building. The parking is not adequate, not to mention the facility is difficult to locate. The Board discussed finding another location for this precinct. Mr. Redding moved to have the staff find another location for the WSFC School Administration Building and discuss designated parking for voters at Ward Elementary School. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

FY 2006-2007 Budget

The Board Members and Staff reviewed the budget for FY 2006-2007. Mrs. Cooper went through the line items and gave the Board some updated amounts. She also went over the budget requests. Mr. Elliott asked about the required travel and stated he would like to have more detailed information on that budget item. He also asked Mrs. Cooper about the budget request for electronic pollbooks. Mrs. Cooper explained how the electronic pollbooks would be helpful in the election and how it would be easier to download voter activity. Mr. Elliott asked for the cost savings of using electronic pollbooks versus printing voter registration books. He also stated that the request for the electronic pollbooks should be a low priority and that the other requests should come first.

Mr. Elliott asked about the line item for advertising. Mr. Elliott stated there are some areas that do voter registration awareness and would like to include a session at a Board Meeting for the public to express ideas on increasing voter turnout. Mrs. Cooper explained that part of the advertising money is for notice of election legal ads that are required to be run prior to each election.

One of the budget requests was for an increase in Board pay. Mr. Elliott stated he would like it to say the Board requests an increase in pay commensurate with increases given to other County Boards in recent years. He stated to include in the Board's duties the mandatory hand/eye count that is now required by law. Mr. Elliott suggested that Mrs. Cooper change the reason from unhappy Board Members to state the reason as the great increase in the effort and time of the Board Members.

Mr. Redding stated he would like a final copy of the budget once all the updated information has been entered. Mr. Elliott stated he would like to see budget requests number 4 & 5 covered before the required travel.

The Board requested copies of the updated budget at the next Board Meeting.

Other Business

The Board and Staff discussed updates on the pollworker online training. Mrs. Dell explained that MIS will be working on updating the information to include the new voting systems. She also stated the MIS department and E-Gov team are working on updating the absentee section as well as other sections.

Mrs. Cooper gave the Board a list of items for which an interim director is needed. It will be discussed at the next meeting.

Adjournment

Mr. Elliott moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Redding seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 4:58 PM.

s:/ Mrs. Charles A. Cardwell, Jr., Chair

s:/ Mr. J. Eric Elliott, Secretary

s:/ Mr. John A. Redding, Member