

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Mrs. Charles A. Cardwell, Jr.
CHAIR

Eric Elliott
SECRETARY

John A. Redding
MEMBER



Kathie Chastain Cooper
DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEETING- JUNE 21, 2005

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

Staff: Mrs. Kathie Chastain Cooper, Director of Elections
Mrs. Pamela Johnson, Administrative Assistant
Mr. Terry J. Cox, Voting Equipment and Computer Technician

Citizens: 20-25 citizens

Call To Order

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

Approval of Minutes- November 15, 2004 and March 8, 2005

Mr. Redding moved to approve the minutes for November 15, 2004 and March 8, 2005. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion of Voting Equipment RFP/ Recommendation from State

Mrs. Cooper explained to the Board that the State Legislature and the State Board of Elections are going to be coming out with an RFP for voting equipment. She stated there are two options for the Forsyth County Board of Elections to consider in regards to the current RFP issued by Forsyth County. Mrs. Cooper presented the Board with a proposed amendment to the current RFP which will extend the testing dates until the fall elections of 2005. Mrs. Cooper also provided the Board with a copy of a letter from Gary Bartlett at the State Board of Elections concerning the RFP saying that Forsyth County probably should not use the current RFP and wait until the State Board issues their RFP. Mrs. Cooper explained the last amendment to the RFP was done in anticipation of the State RFP and was extended until June 30, 2005. She stated she spoke with the Forsyth County Attorney and the Purchasing Director and was informed that if the Board decided not to amend the County RFP that would have to go back to the County Commissioners to reject all

bids. The County Attorney advised Mrs. Cooper that the Board should amend the County RFP to extend the testing dates. This would also allow the State RFP to be issued and allow the Forsyth County Board of Elections to test equipment in the fall elections. Mrs. Cooper recommended that the Board adopt the amendment to the County RFP, keeping in mind that the Board will probably not purchase from the County RFP, but from the State RFP. Mr. Redding made a motion to extend the current RFP until December 31, 2005. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion with the point that given the uncertainty of current situation in Raleigh, he would like to make sure that there are optical scan options available and the current RFP does not address the optical scan. Mr. Elliott stated the RFP may not be suitable for an amendment including optical scan. Mrs. Cooper stated the RFP allows for the testing of optical scan for absentees and that some of those systems have already been tested. She stated the State RFP may allow for the testing of other systems. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Cooper and the Board discussed the fact that the Forsyth County Board of Elections has to have new voting equipment purchased by January 1, 2006. If this requirement is not met, Forsyth County stands to lose in excess of \$300,000 in HAVA grants. In addition, state law does not allow the use of punchcard voting equipment after January 1, 2006. Mr. Redding moved to have the Chair write a letter to State and Federal representatives asking for an extension of voting equipment purchase deadlines. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Elliott stated that he had received communications regarding the meeting from Joyce McCloy, Sara McFarland and Robert Vorsteg.

Authorization to Vote Procedures

Mrs. Cooper presented the Board with Authorization to Vote (ATV) form along with detailed procedures. There were some minor changes to the current ATV form but it is basically the same as what was used in 2004. Mr. Redding moved to adopt the Authorization to Vote procedures. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Personnel Policy

Mrs. Cooper explained to the Board that the State Board of Elections is implementing a Wellness Check for all the Boards of Elections in North Carolina. One of the items on the Wellness Checklist is Personnel Policy and it asks for clarification of whether the Board of Elections has their own personnel policy or if they use the County personnel policy. Mrs. Cooper stated that the Forsyth County Board of Elections has always used the County's personnel policy but that it has never been formally adopted. Mr. Redding moved to make the Forsyth County personnel policy that of the Forsyth County Board of Elections. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Other Business

Mr. Elliott stated that the Board of Elections should post on future agendas whether or not there would be a public speaking session. He stated he would like to see this done for each meeting.

Adjournment

Mr. Elliott moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Redding seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 4:23 PM.

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

s:/ Mr. Eric Elliott, Secretary

s:/ Mr. John A. Redding, Member