

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Linda J. Sutton
Chair

Michael Flatow
Secretary

Jonathan S. Dills
Member



Robert H. Coffman
Director of Elections

Lamar Joyner
Deputy Director

FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEETING MINUTES – CANVASS DAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2011

Call to Order

A Canvass meeting of the Forsyth County Board of Elections was held in the Cooper Cardwell Elections Room on Canvass Day, November 15, 2011. The meeting convened at 11:14 AM, Chairman Linda Sutton presiding.

Board Members in attendance: Chairman Linda Sutton, Secretary Michael Flatow, Member Jonathan Dills

Board Members not in attendance: none

Staff Members in attendance: Director Robert Coffman, Deputy Director Lamar Joyner; Joshua Chunn, Judy Speas

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Sutton asked the Board to review the minutes of November 8, 2011. Secretary Flatow moved and Chairman Sutton seconded the motion to approve the minutes of November 8, 2011. Motion carried.

Precinct Results Audit

The Board examined a handout titled Election Day Results Audit. Mr. Coffman explained that the number of votes cast is compared to the number of Authorization to Vote forms in each Election Day precinct. Precinct 051, Clemmons Elementary School, and Precinct 055, Holy Family Catholic Church, were randomly chosen by the NC State Board of Elections for the Canvass Day hand/eye audit. Mr. Coffman stated that Precinct 051 had a 567 vote total with a 566 ATV total. He explained that the discrepancy may be discovered by running the ballots through the 650 tabulation machine. Secretary Flatow moved to open the Precinct 051, Clemmons Elementary School, ballot box and to retabulate the ballots in the 650 tabulation machine. Chairman Sutton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Provisional Ballots

Of the 26 provisional ballots voted in the 2011 Municipal General Election, 14 were recommended for approval; 12 were recommended for disapproval by election staff. Mr. Coffman distributed a statistical report that explained several reasons for disapproval that included incorrect precinct, previously removed voters, no record of registration, and jurisdiction dispute. After discussion, Secretary Flatow moved to approve the recommendation of provisional ballots by staff. Chairman Sutton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Canvass Election

The Board discussed the Election Day progress of events. Mr. Coffman stated that there were several complaints after the election of aggressive campaigning at the Clemmons precincts. The 50' buffer zone and poll worker procedure was discussed.

Mr. Chunn recommended 2 returned supplemental absentee ballots for approval and zero for disapproval in the weekly report. These ballots were postmarked by Election Day and received by the supplemental ballot deadline. Chairman Sutton moved to approve the staff recommendation of supplemental absentee ballots. Secretary Flatow seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Hand/Eye Audit

Chairman Sutton suggested that the Board of Elections staff conduct the required hand/eye audit with the Board in attendance in the adjoining storage room. Mr. Coffman explained the procedure for the audit which is required by the State Board of Elections. The purpose is to compare the number of actual paper ballots against the reported vote total amount. The ballots for Precinct 051, Clemmons Elementary School, were removed from the ballot box and retabulated in the 650 tabulation machine. Precinct 055, Holy Family Catholic Church, ballots were also removed from the ballot box for the audit. Two tables with three employees each were assembled to complete the hand/eye audit. The teams marked each precinct reconciliation tally sheet with fence posting to record all votes. The Board returned to the Cooper Cardwell Elections Room to complete the audit discussion. Mr. Coffman reported that the Precinct 055 vote total matched with the Election Night report. The Precinct 051 vote total amount showed a difference in the count for Jim Hayes, write-in candidate for Clemmons mayor. However, no outcome in the contest was different. The Board examined the 2011 Municipal General Election official results document. Mr. Coffman recommended that the Board certify the official results of the 2011 Municipal General Election with the small difference of four less write-in votes for Jim Hayes. Member Dills moved to accept the 2011 Municipal General Election results to be official. Chairman Sutton seconded the motion. Motion carried. The Board signed the Abstract of Votes documents which would be mailed to each municipality clerk, the NC State Board of Elections and retained at the county board of elections for the official results of the Election.

Other Business

Mr. Coffman stated that the County Commissioners approved litigation representation for the Board and himself with an outside attorney, Jim Morgan of Womble, Carlyle, Sandridge and Rice, PLLC. The Board discussed the possibility of early counsel with the litigator, Jim Morgan. Chairman Sutton suggested that the Board review the Duties of Director document.

Adjournment

The next regular meeting of the Forsyth County Board of Elections will be held in the Cooper Cardwell Elections Room on November 29, 2011 at 5:30 PM. Chairman Sutton moved to adjourn the meeting. Secretary Flatow seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 1:12 PM. Motion carried.

Approved:

Linda J. Sutton, Chair

Date

Michael Flatow, Secretary

Date

Jonathan S. Dills, Member

Date

Attachments on File: Election Day Results Audit, Provisional Voters Statistics Report, 2011 Municipal General Election Official Results, Village of Clemmons Unofficial Election Results