

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 – FEBRUARY 13, 2013

Call to Order

A special meeting of the Forsyth County Board of Elections was held in the Cooper Cardwell Elections Room on February 13, 2013. The meeting convened at 10:15 AM, Chairman Linda Sutton presiding.

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

Board Members not in attendance: Member Jonathan Dills

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

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Sutton requested that the Board Members review the minutes of January 30, 2013. Secretary Flatow moved and Chairman Sutton seconded the motion to approve the minutes of January 30, 2013. **Motion carried.**

Voter Registration Issue

Mr. Coffman briefed the Board members on an issue of voter registration which had appeared in the Winston-Salem Journal last week. Forsyth County voter Dianna Lightfoot had registered in March 2012, giving her residential address as the UPS business address at 353 Jonestown Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27104. A voter's physical residence address must be declared for qualification to vote; however, a mailing address may be different from the residence address. Mr. Coffman stated that Ms. Lightfoot had recently explained the unintentional situation by forwarding a correct change of address to the office.

Mr. Coffman presented a total listing of eighteen voters that were found to be registered at the same UPS business address. He suggested that a letter of explanation concerning their residential address be mailed to the other seventeen individuals. Secretary Flatow also recommended that information regarding a physical residential address be covered on the website or other media source. Mr. Coffman proposed that the problem may be avoided in the future if other similar business addresses are researched and excluded from the geodata system. Secretary Flatow stated that it was an honest mistake and agreed that measures should be implemented to prevent the problem. Secretary Flatow moved and Chairman Sutton seconded a motion that Mr. Coffman draft a memo to the Board members for a response to Ms. Lightfoot that would also be copied to the State Board of Elections. **Motion carried.** Board members also approved that a letter with a voter registration application be mailed to the other seventeen voters to encourage a physical address change before the current year election.

Other Business

Mr. Coffman explained the current legislative course of action to consider a further election schedule change for the City of Winston-Salem officials before the 2013 Election occurs. In 2011, legislation had changed the schedule where the terms for the City officials elected in 2013 would expire at the organizational meeting after a 2016 regular municipal election. In 2016, the length of term would be four years thereafter with primaries and elections held at the same time as for county officers. Even-numbered year elections are paid through the county budget. Either the municipal elections held in a busy Presidential election year; or, the large reimbursement cost of elections in odd-numbered years would be a concern for the City of Winston-Salem officials. Board members also discussed the candidate filing dates; the 2013-2014 Budget; equipment maintenance; and, possible ES&S software updates.

Adjournment

Chairman Sutton moved and Secretary Flatow seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried** and the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM. The next Board of Elections meeting was scheduled for March 5, 2013 at 10:00 AM.

Approved:

Linda J. Sutton, Chair

Date

Michael Flatow, Secretary

Date

Jonathan S. Dills, Member

Date

Attachments on File: none

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