

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

J. Eric Elliott
CHAIR

Linda J. Sutton
SECRETARY

Jerry D. Jordan
MEMBER



Robert H. Coffman
Director of Elections

FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEETING- FEBRUARY 13, 2007

Present: J. Eric Elliott, Chair
Linda J. Sutton, Secretary
Jerry D. Jordan, Member

Staff: Rob Coffman, Director of Elections
Pamela Johnson, Administrative Assistant

Call To Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

Approval Of Minutes- January 9, 2007

Ms. Sutton moved to approve the minutes for January 9, 2007 and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Closing Precincts for 2007 Municipal Elections

Mr. Coffman stated he spoke with several of the town managers regarding the 2007 Municipal Elections and the possibility of closing some of the smaller precincts and combining them with nearby larger precincts in order to cut election costs. Mr. Coffman stated he did not get a favorable response and that he is not in favor of consolidating precincts. He stated it is confusing to the voter. Mr. Coffman recommended that the Board keep all necessary precincts open for the Municipal Elections.

Discussion of Possible 2007 Statewide Bond Issue on Election Budget

The Board and Staff discussed the possibility of a statewide bond issue on the ballot for the 2007 Elections. Mr. Coffman stated there seemed to be some support for the bond issue in the state assembly. He stated he will contact the State Board of Elections for updates on this matter. The Board and Staff discussed having all precincts open in the county if the bond issue is on the ballot in November, 2007. Mr. Coffman stated this is not covered under the 2007-2008 budget because it is not certain if the bond issue will be on the ballot. Mr. Coffman stated the budget can be amended to cover the statewide election if

necessary.

Approval of 2007-2008 Budget

The Board and Staff reviewed the final revision of the 2007-2008 Budget. Mr. Coffman stated the Board of Elections has only used 80% of the allocated funds in the past several budget years. He stated the 2007-2008 budget reflects a slight decrease. Mr. Coffman stated the budget reflects funds for the possibility of electronic pollbooks. He explained the procedure for using the electronic pollbooks and discussed the price range. He is currently seeking more detailed information regarding these devices.

The Board and Staff discussed the areas of the budget that are set by the County Manager, which includes employee salaries and benefits.

Mr. Jordan moved to approve the 2007-2008 Board of Elections Budget and the motion passed unanimously.

Status Report on Motsinger Lawsuit

Mr. Coffman stated that since the County Attorney, Lori Sykes, filed a motion to dismiss in January, he has not had an update regarding the lawsuit.

Discussion of Personnel Search

Mr. Coffman and the Board discussed the vacancies in the Board of Elections office and progress of the personnel search. Mr. Coffman stated he received 15 applications for the Training Specialist position. He stated that 6-8 of those applicants are qualified for the position. He also stated he would be interviewing next week for the voter registration position. Mr. Coffman stated he wants to add a tech position to help with voting equipment and computers. He also stated he will begin recruiting for a deputy director in the near future.

State Board of Elections Memo Sharing

The Board and Staff discussed recent State Board of Elections memos. Ms. Sutton shared literature with the Board regarding registering to vote and voting on election day.

Public Comment Session

There were several precinct workers present to speak before the Board regarding precincts and precinct procedures. Instead of each person speaking for 3 minutes, the Chair invited open discussion with the Board, Staff and Precinct Officials. Those who spoke were George Wolff, 212 Heathcliff Place, Winston-Salem, N.C.; Debi Engelhaput, 2025 Denise Lane, Winston-Salem, N.C.; Margaret Geiser, 3717 Squirewood Drive, Clemmons, N.C.; Frances Bowen, 3663 Kinghill Drive, Winston-Salem, N.C.; Pat Kelly, 3020 Draper Court, Winston-

Salem, N.C.; Selena Nichols, 3400 Cumberland Road, Winston-Salem, N.C.; and Fleming El-Amin, 5400 Novack Street, Winston-Salem, N.C.

The Precinct Officials discussed concerns regarding the NC DMV voter registration. Ms. Geiser stated there were some voters who registered through the DMV but were not in the pollbooks. Mr. Wolfe stated he had the same thing occur at his precinct. The Staff explained some of the reasons why a voter may have registered but would not be in the pollbook. The Staff explained there is a registration deadline that may not have been met and there may have been incomplete registration applications that were not completed in time to be in the pollbooks. Mr. Wolff stated he would like to see a better procedure for marking absentee voters in the pollbooks. He stated it takes a long time to mark these and it causes voting delays. Some of the precinct officials discussed issues with voting equipment not working properly on election day. There was discussion about splitting up the work day on election day. The Board and Staff discussed plans for future elections to help avoid those situations.

Ethel Evans, 1629 West First Street, #134, Winston-Salem, N.C., with the Voter Coalition, suggested having Board Meetings in the evenings instead of at 4:00 PM. She also suggested the Board and Staff be more active in voter education.

Mae Moore 5670 Farmstead Road, Pfafftown, N.C., stated she would like to see more voter education as well as more information regarding being a Precinct Official. She also requested information on Precinct Official recruiting.

Meeting Room Matters

The Board and Staff discussed hanging photographs in the board room. Mr. Coffman stated there is a county seal plaque on order and that he plans to put a flag in the room. He also stated that Mrs. Cardwell's photo is ready to be placed on the wall.

Review of Upcoming Local and State Meeting Schedules

There are no meetings scheduled in the immediate future. Mr. Coffman stated he will inform the Board of upcoming meetings when he receives notification.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

Ms. Sutton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting ended at 6:00 PM.

s:/ J. Eric Elliott, Chair

s:/ Linda J. Sutton, Secretary

s:/ Jerry D. Jordan, Member