

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Ken Raymond
Chairman

Stuart Russell
Secretary

Fleming El-Amin
Member



FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS Meeting Minutes January 21, 2016

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FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Meeting Minutes – January 21, 2016

Meeting Called to Order

A regular meeting of the Forsyth County Board of Elections was called to order in the second floor meeting room on January 21, 2016. The meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m., Chairman Ken Raymond presiding.

Board Members in attendance: Chairman Ken Raymond, Secretary Stuart Russell, and Member Fleming El-Amin

Staff Members in attendance: Interim Director Lamar Joyner, Chris Duffey, and Kimberly Stuck

Other County Staff: Lonnie Albright – Assistant County Attorney

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Raymond led the pledge of allegiance.

Moment of Silence

Chairman Raymond led a moment of silence.

Public Comment Session

Chairman Raymond opened the public comment session with instructions. Speakers were asked to complete a public comment card and would have two minutes or less to speak. The speaker's name and address should be stated for the record. Questions should be included during the allotted time and answers would be given at the close of the session. A speaker's time could not be given to another individual. At the close of the public comment session, no additional statements or questions would be heard from the public. The public comment session included the following speakers:

Ann Wilson – 445 Marshall View Ct, Winston Salem, NC 27101

Charles Wilson – 445 Marshall View Ct, Winston Salem, NC 27101

Chris Flynt (Industries of the Blind) – 7730 North Point Dr, Winston Salem, NC 27106

Lois Roewade – 3835 Lakeview Dr., Pfafftown, NC 27040

Isaiah Fletcher (Young Democrats of Forsyth County) – 635 Beth Ave, Winston Salem, NC 27127

Chairman Raymond moved, Member El-Amin motioned, Secretary Russell seconded to close public comments; **Motion carried unanimously.**

The Board addressed the public's comments, which included early voting sites in the city, extended hours, use of Industries of the Blind as a polling location, and the Board's meeting schedule. Additionally, the Board deferred to Interim Director Joyner to discuss provisional ballot requirements, and approval as well as the reasonable impediment option for voters without acceptable photo identification, and one stop site and hours.

Mr. Joyner and Mr. Duffey provided that those that seek to use the reasonable impediment option must state and sign to the reason of which they were unable to obtain one of the photo identifications

permissible. They also addressed the approval process and documents such as HAVA documents that can be presented as proof of residency. Mr. Joyner invited Mrs. Wilson to the elections office for additional information.

Interim Director Joyner additionally addressed availability of voting equipment that is ADA compliant for the visually and hearing impaired voters. Mr. Joyner assured the public that all polling locations have ADA compliant machines for voter use as well as assistants for those that need or request assistance.

Other Business

Chairman Raymond addressed the article published in the Winston Salem Journal regarding unaffiliated candidates. Chairman Raymond deferred to Assistant Forsyth County Attorney Lonnie Albright for insight; to which Mr. Albright advised that due to candidates implications of violating *The Hatch Act - 5 U.S.C. § 7321-7326* any further discussion should be had in closed session.

Chairman Raymond addressed changes offered in February 2015 by former Director Steve Hines to streamline one stop voting process. Interim Director Joyner and the Board reviewed six points including securing ballots, precinct returns, voter history, early voting, and training.

Secretary Russell suggested that staff review resolutions to see what worked and come back to the Board to discuss further; noting that he believes that Interim Director Joyner's views should be considered, as he is currently the head of the ship.

Member El-Amin stated training is a concern; addressing need for well-trained judges and clear understanding of the Reasonable Impediment option.

Mr. Joyner stated that One-Stop plans were submitted to the State for consideration; advised the Board that the State Board of Elections may address One-Stop plans at the state conference. Interim Director Joyner noted that there would be four staff members attending the conference as well.

Interim Director Joyner advised the Board that staff met with Pastor Jenkins of St. Paul's UMC; Pastor Jenkins layout his plan to provide space for voters. Mr. Joyner stated that though the space is not a large one it will work.

Additionally, Mr. Joyner reached out to Mr. Grubbs at Precinct 014 – Beeson's Crossroads Fire Department to see what could be done to facilitate the use of that facility. Mr. Grubbs addressed the parking issues, stating that he would provide feedback after meeting with the Board of Beeson's Crossroads Fire Department. Mr. Grubbs did note that recent roadwork has complicated traffic pattern at that location.

Mr. Joyner provided to the Board key upcoming dates. One being the statutory absentee meetings which are set for 5 pm however, they can be changed. Second being Canvass – March 22, 2016 at 11 a.m. Mr. Joyner advised that Hand-Eye Audit be held on another day due to quantity of Absentee and Provisional ballots; offering March 18, 2016 for consideration.

Interim Director Joyner stated that the State Board of Elections had approved ballots. Mr. Joyner offered

that due to Mr. Duffey's hard work office is ahead of the game.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Raymond moved for approval of the minutes dated December 17, 2016 and January 6, 2016 as provided; Secretary Russell motioned, Member El-Amin seconded the motion. **Motion carried Unanimously.**

Closed Session

Chairman Raymond moved to go into closed session, citing N.C.G.S § 143-318.11(a)(6) which enables the Board, "To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee," and N.C.G.S § 143-318.11(a)(3) to address potential litigation. Member El-Amin motioned; Secretary Russell seconded motion. **Motion carried unanimously.** Session closed at 6:10 p.m. Board returned to open session at 7 p.m.

Chairman Raymond stated that while awaiting action from the State Board of Elections on the unaffiliated matter. all questions should be deferred to Assistant County Attorney Albright. On matter of personnel there was no action taken.

Chairman Raymond called for any other business; there being none at that time.

Adjournment

Chairman Raymond moved to adjourn meeting; Secretary Russell motioned, Member El-Amen seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.** Meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Approved:

Ken Raymond, Chairman

Date

Stuart Russell, Secretary

Date

Fleming El-Amin, Member

Date