

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- JANUARY 9, 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

Ms. Sutton moved to approve the minutes for December 14, 2006 and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment Session

There were no public comments.

Discussion of the Resolution of Duties of Director

Mr. Elliott explained the Resolution of the Duties of the Director. He stated there were additional items added to the resolution by the Board in 2005. Item number 2 was added regarding notifying the Board Members monthly of Staff activities and to notify the Board when the Director is out of town.

Mr. Elliott explained the reason the Board is reviewing the budget requests for the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year is because it is required by statute and indicated in item number 12 of the resolution. Mr. Elliott stated that the budget would be finalized and Board approved at the next Board meeting and submitted to the County Finance Department before going to the County Commissioners for approval.

Update on Motsinger Suit

Mr. Coffman stated the Assistant County Attorney, Lori Sykes, issued a response to the suit filed against the Forsyth County Board of Elections by Elizabeth Motsinger. Ms. Sykes filed a motion to dismiss. Mr. Coffman stated he will let the Board know when he receives Ms. Motsinger's response.

Other Old Business

Mr. Elliott explained each county Board of Elections has to submit a Security Plan to the State Board of Elections in regards to voting equipment and election supplies. The Forsyth County Board of Elections will need to update the plan.

Mr. Elliott and the Staff discussed the retention schedule for the destruction of ballots and election materials. Materials from Federal General Elections are kept for 22 months. Municipal Election materials are kept for 2 months.

The Board and Staff discussed the possibility of consolidating a few select precincts for the 2007 Municipal Elections. This would involve split precincts which have a small number of voters in the municipality. The municipalities would save on election costs by doing this. The Board and Staff discussed ways to notify voters of the changes should the consolidation occur.

Presentation of Current BOE Budget by Rob Coffman and Discussion of Possible Budget Changes for the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year

Mr. Coffman presented the Board with a draft of the BOE budget for their review. The Board and Staff discussed the breakdown of the budget line items and how the election costs are budgeted separately from the administrative costs.

Mr. Coffman asked the Board for any recommendations for the budget requests.

Mr. Elliott recommended researching the cost of electronic pollbooks for the precincts. This would offset the cost of printing over a period of time and would alleviate problems such as election day transfers and voters voting in the wrong precincts. Mr. Coffman stated the State Board of Elections has not approved any electronic pollbooks at this point. He explained that another county is using laptop computers and that is working successfully. Mr. Elliott asked Mr. Coffman to research the cost on laptops for the precincts. Mr. Jordan stated this election year would be a good time to experiment with electronic pollbooks or laptops since we only have the Municipal Elections.

The Board and Staff discussed requesting an increase in pollworker pay and the use of the advertising budget.

Mr. Coffman will continue to work on the budget and will have it ready for Board approval at the next meeting on February 13, 2007.

Other Business

Mr. Elliott shared a Thank You card from Mrs. Cardwell.

Mr. Coffman stated he will be out of the office February 5 through February 9, 2007.

Adjournment

Mr. Jordan moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 PM.

s:/ J. Eric Elliott, Chair

s:/ Linda J. Sutton, Secretary

s:/ Jerry D. Jordan, Member