

## BOARD OF ELECTIONS

**Ken Raymond**  
Chairman

**Stuart Russell**  
Secretary

**Fleming El-Amin**  
Member



### FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 27, 2014

#### **Meeting Called to Order**

A special meeting of the Forsyth County Board of Elections was called to order in the second floor elections conference room on January 27, 2014. The meeting convened at 4:35 PM, Chairman Ken Raymond presiding. Secretary Russell moved and Member El-Amin seconded a motion to recess and to move the meeting to the fourth floor meeting room to accommodate the large crowd. The meeting reconvened at 4:40 PM, Chairman Ken Raymond presiding. Chairman Raymond requested that the Board members defer a public comment session until the next meeting. Secretary Russell moved and Member El-Amin seconded a motion to continue the meeting without a public comment session. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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

Staff Members in attendance: Board of Elections Staff - Deputy Director Lamar Joyner, Josh Chunn, Chris Duffey, Judy Speas, Jacob Wright  
Other County Staff - Beatrice Hunter, Lonnie Albright, Gloria Woods

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Raymond requested that the Board members review the minutes of the November 21 amendment and December 10, 2013. Secretary Russell stated that the letter from Susan Campbell, Chairman of the Forsyth County Democratic Party, would be provided for the December 10, 2013 minutes. Member El-Amin moved and Secretary Russell seconded a motion to accept the Board minutes of the November 21 amendment and December 10, 2013 as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Status of Rob Coffman**

Chairman Raymond stated that the Board members had submitted a petition for the termination of Mr. Coffman and that Ms. Strach, Director of the State Board of Elections, had responded in agreement on January 17, 2014. Mr. Albright stated that the State Board of Elections had a 20 day deadline of February 6, 2014 for reconsideration of the action. Chairman Raymond referred to a document from County Manager Dudley Watts that outlined county budgetary assignments for Mr. Coffman during that time period.

### **Budget Process**

Chairman Raymond questioned Mr. Joyner regarding the status of the budget process. Mr. Joyner explained his involvement with the 2015 Fiscal Year budget process which would include a readjustment of the One Stop temporary staff. Mr. Joyner stated that new election laws require that an equal amount of voting hours from the 2010 Election four years ago be matched in a shorter 2014 Early Voting calendar. Board members would be obligated to adjust the schedule of hours to meet the new requirement.

### **Letter from Rural Hall Mayor Larry Williams**

Chairman Raymond read a letter dated December 18, 2013 from Rural Hall Mayor Larry Williams. The Rural Hall Council stated their disappointment concerning the opening of both polling sites in Rural Hall for the 2013 Municipal General Election. The letter read that the two locations had been consolidated into one site in past elections. The Town Clerk stated that she was informed during the June 2013 candidate filing training that one site was being recommended for 2013 and would be notified if a change occurred. No notification was given and because of the confusion Rural Hall recommended that the polling locations be consolidated into one site in all future municipal elections.

Mr. Wright explained that the conversation during the training was a confusion because Winston-Salem voters in the Rural Hall Elementary School precinct would be moved during the Winston-Salem Primary in September; not that the Rural Hall voters would also be moved for the Municipal General Election in November. The same situation would not occur in the next Winston-Salem Primary which would be in 2016. Chairman Raymond asked Mr. Joyner to draft a letter of explanation and regret of the confusion in response to the Town of Rural Hall.

Member El-Amin read the General Statute regarding consolidation of precincts for explanation.

### **Letter from Lynda Wood**

Chairman Raymond began discussion of a letter received from Lynda Wood regarding displeasure of the Tobaccoville recount. Mr. Albright stated that the Board members should discuss the letter in closed session since the letter referenced possible litigation. Chairman Raymond agreed to discuss the matter in closed session.

### **Voter Registration Policy**

Chairman Raymond discussed a voluntary voter registration policy adopted by the Board members last year. When an organization or individual conducts a voter registration drive, their contact information would be requested on a voluntary form. This information could be helpful in processing the voter registration forms. Board members examined a draft of the voluntary Voter Registration Policy form. Chairman Raymond stated that a line for email contact information would be helpful. Secretary Russell moved and Member El-Amin seconded a motion to accept the voter registration policy form after adding a line for email contact information. **Motion carried unanimously.** Member El-Amin stated that the rationale behind the form was not to discourage participation. It is a voluntary form and not required by law.

### **Other Business**

Mr. Joyner explained the required dates for the submission of the 2014 One Stop Plan. A One Stop Plan with no reduction of hours must be submitted to the State Board of Elections by March 14, 2014 while a One Stop Plan with a reduction of hours must be submitted by February 17, 2014. Also, contact to possible additional locations must be made early in order to schedule the voting hours at the location. Mr. Joyner presented documentation comparing the 2010 One Stop schedule of hours to the plans for the 2014 One Stop schedule.

Mr. Albright spoke of two matters for Other Business. The first is the appointment of an Interim Director for today through the 2014 Primary subject to the approval of the State Board of Elections. Don Wright, General Counsel to the State Board, had suggested that the Forsyth County Board of Elections should consider appointing an Interim Director. The second matter is the authorization of a letter from this Board to the former Director acknowledging and confirming his termination of January 17<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Albright respectfully suggested that the two matters be taken up in Closed Session. Chairman Raymond agreed that a letter should be drafted and mailed. Mr. Albright said that Ms. Hunter was available from Human Resources to answer their concerns of appointing an Interim Director. Chairman Raymond stated that Mr. Joyner had agreed that he was comfortable with the additional duties and confident in the staff to carry through the Election Year.

**Closed Session**

Chairman Raymond moved and Secretary Russell seconded a motion for closed session. Chairman Raymond stated: I move that the Board go into closed session to consult with an attorney based on NCGS 143-318.11(a) (3) to consider and give instructions concerning potential or actual claim, administrative procedure, or judicial action; and to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, or condition of appointment of a public officer or employee or prospective employee. **Motion carried unanimously.** Board members went into closed session at 5:15 PM.

**Adjournment**

Board members went into open session at 6:00 PM. Secretary Russell moved and Member El-Amin seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried unanimously** and the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM. The next Board of Elections meeting was called for February 3, 2014 at 4:30 PM.

Approved:

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Ken Raymond, Chair

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Date

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Stuart Russell, Secretary

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Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fleming El-Amin, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Attachments on File:** Graph of Early Voting 2010 and 2014 Hours; Letter from Rural Hall Mayor Larry Williams; Voter Registration Policy document