

MINUTES, LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS, 15 FEBRUARY 2012 AT 1003, ELECTION HEADQUARTERS, 110C SOUTH HERRITAGE STREET, KINSTON, NC 28502

Present: Chairman Sharon L. Kanter, Secretary Oscar E. Herring, Board Member Kimberly B. Allison and Elections Director Dana W. King.

Others in Attendance: Patricia M. Von Cannon, Republican candidate for an at-large County Commissioner seat

Chairman Kanter welcomed guest, Ms. Patricia M. Von Cannon, Falling Creek precinct, 2824 Spring Court Road, Kinston, NC 28504, (252)-686-0575, to the meeting. Ms. Cannon asked the board members to respond to the following questions:

- Who funds the elections?
- What is the estimated cost per election, primary, run-off, and general?
- How many precincts in Lenoir County?
- What is the difference between “One Stop” and “Early Voting”?
- Who has the authority to approve voting on Sunday at One Stop/Early Voting?
- How does the BOE prevent a voter from voting more than once?
- Can all voters be identified?
- What is the Board’s opinion on Voter ID?
- Can an independent voter be a precinct worker?
- How and when is a voter’s name removed from the voter listing?
- The candidate stated that she was opposed to “*Sunday voting at One Stop/Early Voting*”.
- Candidate stated that, in her opinion, *Sunday voting at the One Stop/Early Voting* sites encourages voter fraud.

The questions and answer session with Ms. Von Cannon concluded at 1020.

**Filing began at 1200 hours on 2/13/2012 and ends at 1200 hours on 2/29/2012.
One Stop Voting begins April 19, 2012 at 8:30 and ends 5:00 daily
One Stop Voting ends on May 5, 2012 at t 1:00**

Mrs. Kanter called the meeting to order at 1021 and the minutes, dated 18 January 2012 and 30 January 2012 were unanimously approved on a motion by Kimberly B. Allison and a second by Oscar E. Herring.

The calendar of scheduled events was reviewed. Consensus of the board was that:

- Precinct officials who worked in the 2010 county-wide municipal elections (Kinston, Pink Hill and La Grange) will not be required to have extensive refresher training.
- Precinct officials with no training or refresher training in the past two years will be identified and King is to conduct extensive training to ensure all precinct officials are knowledgeable and feel comfortable when using the equipment. The Board requested that this training take place by the end of March 2012.

King was requested to identify all precinct officials who will work in the 2012 elections. Verify, through the Chief Judges, all appointed precinct officials who will be available during the 2012 elections. Any identified precinct official who will not be available will require the BOE to seek a replacement.

Cathy Riggs previously held the position as Republican Judge at K-7 [Emma Webb]. She resigned as the Republican Judge at K-7 because she was elected as Chair of the Lenoir County Republican Party. She has since resigned the position as the Chair of the Lenoir County Republican Party and she is the only Republican precinct official in K-7. She has requested that she be reappointed as the Republican Judge at K-7 [Emma Webb]. The board appointed Cathy Riggs as the Republican Judge at K-7 in accordance with NC General Statute 163-41.

King gave each board member a map, with street names, and boundary lines for two precincts; K-7 [Emma Webb] and K-4 [Northwest School]. Kanter volunteered to contact officials at the Kinston County Club as a possible site to relocate K-4 [Northwest School]. King and board members are to seek sites to relocate both precincts.

Herring asked if no alternative site can be found for K-7 [Emma Webb] can the precinct be located in another precinct? Elections Director responded “No”. *(At the 11/15/2011 Canvass Meeting, the Chief Judge at K-7 [Emma Webb], informed the Board that the arrangements at K-7 [Emma Webb] are unacceptable and the precinct should be relocated where voting accommodations are more accommodating.)* **Re:** 11/15/2011 Minutes, page 1450. King informed the Board that Ellis continues to

encourage the Board to use Mock Gym to relocate K-7 [Emma Webb]. King has informed the Board that she does not believe the NCSBOE will approve the use of this site because there is insufficient parking and ADA-compliant access, while available, is difficult.

King gave each board member a revised chart of county precincts which identified the the District that each US Congress, NC House, NC Senate, County Commissioners and Board of Education were assigned according to the 2011 NC Redistricting Plan. See attachment 1.

The County Attorney Robert [Bob] Griffin does not recommend the splitting of Falling Creek and Moseley Hall precincts because the letter that Mr. Griffin sent to the SBOE and the US Justice Department requesting pre-clearance was not acknowledged. Upon investigation by Mr. Griffin it was noted that the Post Office Box for the Justice Department had been closed. Legal counsel at the SBOE advised King that the Lenoir County Board of Elections should proceed with the splitting of the two precincts. On a motion by Oscar E. Herring, a second by Kimberly B. Allison, and unanimous approval, the splitting of Falling Creek and Moseley Hall precincts will proceed.

King informed the board members that the County Manager was reviewing the information sent to him in support of the board's request for pay increase for the precinct officials and a decision should be made in the near future.

King informed the board that State training will be held on 4-5 April 2012 at the Sheraton in Durham [located on Page Road]. The Lenoir County delegation will leave on the afternoon of 3 April and confirmed reservations are with Comfort Suites. Kimberly B. Allison volunteered to drive her vehicle.

King informed the board that Jamie, with the Lenoir County IT Department, will visit the BOE and will label each computer and the equipment to correspond with the number written on the tub [box]; i.e., K-1 will be labeled "1" and "1-A". After placing an identification number on the equipment it will be placed in the tubs [boxes] and the tubs [boxes] will be labeled "1" and "1A". Only one precinct will be a *tested*. All wiring, equipment, etc. will be color coded using fingernail polish.

Herring recommended that future approved minutes be placed on the BOE website. Posting the minutes on the website will give the public the opportunity to be kept abreast of the board's deliberations and actions. However, the public is welcomed to read the minutes directly from the BOE Minute Book. Anyone requesting duplication of pages from the Minute Book will be charged \$0.35 for each page. A request for duplicated pages from the Minute Book shall be made in writing and the Elections Director shall respond to the request within 24 hours. If the request for duplication will be delayed the Elections Director shall provide the requestor with the rationale for the delay and send a courtesy copy to the board members. The minutes will be posted one month after the board meeting [this gives the board members time to review, approve, and sign the minutes]. After approval by the board, the Elections Director shall scan the minutes and forward the minutes to the IT Director to place on the Board of Elections website. This policy was unanimously approved on a motion by Oscar E. Herring and a second by Kimberly B. Allison.

It was the consensus of the board members that the board may need to hold a special budget meeting prior to the submission of the budget to the County Manager.

There will be four sites for One Stop/Early Voting; Pink Hill, Moseley Hall Fire Department and two in Kinston. Recommendation was unanimously adopted on a motion by Oscar E. Herring and a second by Kimberly B. Allison.

There was considerable deliberation on the topic of voting on Sunday. King informed the board members that she is required to send a plan [three different plans] to the SBOE on how the county plans to conduct the election; sites, primary, run-off, general. Consideration was given to the articles in the news media that the General Assembly had discussed the possibility of cutting short the voting period. Board members also discussed the heavy Sunday voter turnout statistics in a number of NC counties where that option has been made available to voters.

The board members reviewed several handouts prior to taking action. See attachments 2 through 5.

On a motion by Kimberly B. Allison, a second by Sharon L. Kanter, the board approved early voting for **one** Sunday. Oscar Herring, voted against the motion. The One Stop/Early Voting will be on a trial basis in April and the voter response to One Stop/Early voting will be revisited after the May election.

4/28/2012 [Saturday] – 0830-1300

4/29/2012 [Sunday] – 1300-1700

5/8/2012 [Saturday] – 0830-1300

According to the recent ruling by US Department of Justice the 2014 elections will be non-partisan.

Robert Griffin, County Attorney, advised King that he never received a response from the Department of Justice regarding the redistricting. Mr. Griffin stated that he saw on the Internet that the post office box for the Department of Justice has been closed. The SBOE advised Griffin/King to proceed with the filing which began on 2/15/2012.

At 11:46 the Board took a break for Herring to attend to personal business.

At 12:15 the Board returned from break and Herring stated that he had read both of the job descriptions on the duties of the Director of Elections [dated 20 August 1991 and 10 October 1997.] The text is the same on both job descriptions.

Gary Bartlett, Executive Director of SBOE, has confirmed that he will attend the Lenoir County board meeting [0900 – 1100], have lunch, and after lunch, Bartlett will conduct a training session for new board members [1300-1600]. The Elections Director shall send an invitation [invitation to Directors, staff, and board members] to all counties in District 7 and invite them to the training session conducted by Bartlett.

The meeting was adjourned at 1249 on a motion by Kimberly B. Allison and a second by Oscar E. Herring.

APPROVED:

Sharon L. Kanter
Chairman

Kimberly B. Allison
Board Member

Oscar E. Herring
Secretary

5 Attachments

1. 2011 NC Redistricting Plan
2. Sunday Voting in District 7
3. Sunday Voting/Early Voting
4. One Day Pay at One Stop
5. Statistics prepared by Democracy North Carolina.