

## BOARD OF ELECTIONS

**Mrs. Charles A. Cardwell, Jr.**  
CHAIR

**Eric Elliott**  
SECRETARY

**John A. Redding**  
MEMBER



**Kathie Chastain Cooper**  
DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

### **FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEETING- MARCH 8, 2005**

Present: Mrs. Charles A. Cardwell, Jr., Chair  
Mr. Eric Elliott, Secretary  
Mr. John A. Redding, Member

Staff: Mrs. Kathie Chastain Cooper, Director of Elections  
Mrs. Laura Gerardi-Dell, Deputy Director of Elections  
Ms. Pamela Craver, Administrative Assistant  
Mr. Terry Cox, Computer Elections Technician

---

#### Call To Order

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

#### Approval of Minutes- February 9, 2005

The Board reviewed the minutes for the February 9, 2005 Board Meeting. Mr. Redding moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### Discussion of House Bill 126

The Director explained to the Board that House Bill 126, if approved, the State BOE would choose 10 counties in the state to participate in a pilot program whereby the one-stop voting would be used through Election Day as the predominant voting method. The Boards of Elections would set up various one-stop voting sites throughout the county for a determined period of time and the one-stop sites would remain open until Election Day. This would eliminate the need for all precincts in the county to be open. The Director stated she wanted the Board to consider the pilot because the Board of Elections would benefit from having fewer precincts. It would save costs on precinct workers, precinct phones as well as precinct rental fees. She stated it would also allow the public more convenience by choosing when they go vote. Mr. Elliott liked the idea of the pilot program but was concerned about the voting equipment.

The Director stated the current punch card voting system was not ideal for the one-stop pilot program due to the number of ballot types that would be needed. Mr. Elliott was concerned about committing to the program without having newer voting equipment. He further stated he did not want to commit to the program and then feel as though a decision regarding the purchase of voting equipment would have to be done in haste. Mr. Redding stated he was concerned that the voters in Forsyth County would not like the program. He stated the Constitution stipulates that elections be held the first Tuesday of November. The Board is not in favor of participating in the pilot program.

#### Discussion of Voting Equipment

The Director presented the Board with Voting Equipment Options (see attached). The Board and Staff discussed the voting equipment needs and concerns. The Board and Staff also discussed the RFP. The Director stated the State Board of Elections will use their RFP, due to be implemented this spring or summer, for certification of voting systems. The RFP will include DRE and optical scan voting equipment. The current Forsyth County Board of Elections RFP calls for the Board to make a choice of vendors no later than March 11. The Director outlined 7 options (see attached). Based on the fact that we might need to use our current RFP to meet the deadline, the Director recommends that we keep the current RFP open and amend the dates until June keeping in mind that we may purchase from the state RFP. Mr. Redding made the motion to amend the dates for the current RFP to June 30, 2005 and to wait for the State RFP. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### Other Business

Mr. Redding stated he spoke with the County Manager regarding additional space on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor for the Board of Elections. Mr. Redding explained the County Manager was concerned about taking space from the future Register of Deeds office since they may need the additional space in the future. The County Manager stated there was space throughout the rest of the building that may be suitable for the Board of Elections to place voting equipment and other necessary items. The Director stated she spoke with the County Manager as well. She had not received very positive feedback concerning the request. The Board and Staff will continue to pursue this matter.

The Board discussed the possibility of a raise being approved in the upcoming budget. Mrs. Cooper stated she has asked for their increase, but is uncertain as to whether it will get approved. In addition, she states that the request for the additional computer technician position may not be approved. She stated the Board may need to get involved in negotiations for these budget items when they get to the county commissioners.

Adjournment

Mr. Elliott moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Redding seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 PM.

s:/ Mrs. Charles A. Cardwell, Jr., Chair

s:/ Mr. Eric Elliott, Secretary

s:/ Mr. John A. Redding, Member