

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF CARTERET  
1510 LIVE OAK STREET  
BEAUFORT, NC 28516  
January 9, 2006**

**The Carteret County Board of Elections met in the Elections' office on this date at 4 PM for a special meeting. All three board members along with Director, Deputy Director were present along with two members of the media. The purpose of the meeting was to finalize the request for approval of the ES&S optical scan voting system.**

**Prior to discussing the voting system presentation, board members discussed the public forum which was held January 4, 2006. Board members were aware of a possible conflict of interest. A local candidate for sheriff's son is an employee of the PrintElect company and was on hand as a representative of the company during the forum. Board members along with the Director have received inquiries into this situation. Chairman Henderson had called and requested that Director Lewis draft a letter for board members to review at this meeting. Member Verdon had spoken with Mr. Owen Andrews of PrintElect prior to the meeting as had Director Lewis. The Director had also contacted Mr. Bartlett at the State Board of Elections (SBOE) to advise him of the situation. Mr. Andrews indicated that he was not aware of the situation prior to the forum. He had also spoken with Mr. Bartlett at SBOE. Mr. Andrews has advised that he will be forwarding a letter to the SBOE for them to retain on file with a written assurance that the employee in question will not be working with the Carteret County election account in any capacity. The SBOE will forward a copy for the local board to have on file. Board members felt confident that Mr. Andrews is cooperative and will resolve the situation. Member Verdon made the motion to send the letter to PrintElect as written, seconded by Secretary Rivers. Motion passed, 3-0.**

**Director Lewis provided the board members with the packet of information that has been provided to the county commissioners prior to tonight's meeting. This information is attached to the minutes and includes two pricing options as previously agreed upon by the board. Director Lewis stated that she had spoken with Suzanne Carpenter with the SBOE late this afternoon and has learned the amount of HAVA grant funds available to Carteret County is greater than the \$438,810 figure that the county has been working with. The actual amount is \$460,794 which has been verified with Ms. Carpenter along with the calculations that led to this amount. This amount would allow Carteret County to purchase the equipment requested in option 1, outfit the equipment with modems for election night transmittal of results, and also purchase the necessary ancillary equipment without exceeding the HAVA funds. Director Lewis has also provided the board members with information that has been compiled in the office as background information for the request. Ms. Lewis had been notified by the county manager that the board of commissioners would like a cost comparison of maintenance costs**

associated with both types of equipment available. The county manager also advised that information on the projected costs associated with conducting the May primary strictly by paper ballot would also be helpful. Chairman Henderson requested that Director Lewis provide copies for the seven commissioners and the county manager at tonight's meeting as there was not sufficient time to compile the information and include in the commissioners' packets prior to the meeting. These handouts are attached to the minutes.

Board members discussed the additional HAVA funds available. Member Verdon stated she was initially opposed to purchasing the modems but would now like to see them included in the equipment order. She further stated she was very concerned with training and would like to see additional hardware training also included. She felt that all of the poll workers should have one class of training for the hardware from PrintElect staff. Board members discussed and agreed that the additional four days of training could be included in the purchase along with extra ballot boxes. Chairman Henderson made the motion that the Carteret County Board of Elections request that the Carteret County Board of Commissioners approve the recommended optical scan voting system from Election Systems and Software and that the purchase price not exceed the total HAVA grant funds available of \$460,794. Member Verdon seconded the motion. Motion passed, 3-0.

Board members also discussed the establishment of an additional one-stop voting site in Cedar Point. Member Verdon made the motion that the Carteret County Board of Elections establish a one-stop voting site in Cedar Point to accommodate additional early voters contingent upon approval of additional funding to be provided by the county commissioners, seconded by Secretary Rivers. Motion passed, 3-0.

Chairman Henderson stated the Board would not be adjourning their meeting at this time as they would reconvene and continue their meeting in the commissioners' board room in case they were required to conduct business based on information at the meeting.

Chairman Henderson presented the request for voting equipment to the county commissioners and provided information requested. Commissioners approved the request, 6-1, allowing the Board of Elections to revise the equipment purchase list with expenditures not to exceed the total amount of HAVA grant funds available to Carteret County. Director Lewis was asked by Chairman Henderson to complete the purchase list and have available for the next meeting for the board's final approval.

The Board will meet at the Elections' office at 9 AM on Tuesday, January 10, 2006 to inspect potential polling sites.

**Page -3-  
Minutes 1-9-06**

**There being no further business, Chairman Henderson adjourned the meeting.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Bill Henderson, Chairman**

**Harry Rivers, Secretary**

**Sue Verdon, Member**