

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF CARTERET
1510 LIVE OAK STREET
BEAUFORT, NC 28516
FEBRUARY 1, 2006**

The Carteret County Board of Elections met this date in the Elections' office at 9 AM. All three board members along with director and deputy director were present.

Chairman Henderson called the meeting to order.

Member Verdon made the motion to approve the previous minutes, seconded by Secretary Rivers. Motion passed, 3-0.

Chairman Henderson called for public comments. Mr. Allen Windley presented the Board with a letter he had written to the editor of the paper which addressed concerns regarding the general statute requiring unaffiliated candidates to collect signatures prior to having their name included on the ballot during a partisan election. A copy of the letter is attached to the minutes. Mr. Windley stated he felt the number of signatures required for these candidates was unfair and unreasonable. He stated that there had been a lawsuit filed regarding this requirement and it had been reported that the NC Attorney General's office was reviewing the statute. He stated he has attempted to verify if there has been a change in the election law but has not had a response from the Attorney General's office. He asked if the board would contact the AG's office for this information. He also commended Deputy Director Gillikin who has provided him with information on this subject. Secretary Rivers stated he felt uneasy with the board or office directly contacting the AG's office and stated he felt the office could contact the SBOE and ask that they respond to Mr. Windley's concerns. Member Verdon agreed that the office should follow the proper chain of command with the request which would begin with the SBOE. Chairman Henderson directed Director Lewis to contact the SBOE regarding Mr. Windley's request. There were no further public comments.

The Board discussed and viewed maps of several precincts which have been targeted for proposed changes due to annexations. The first area was the Beaufort 1/Morehead 1 precinct line. After much discussion, the board requested that elections' staff contact both the Beaufort and Morehead Planning Departments to get a clearer understanding of the intentions of both towns regarding annexation of additional property on the causeway. All board members agreed that a better decision could be made with additional information from these departments. The next area was the Newport 1/Wildwood precinct line. Board members agreed to look at this area again at a later date. The area that has been annexed by the Town of Newport but is listed in Wildwood precinct currently involves only one family. Chairman Henderson stated he would like to postpone a decision on this situation as the board is considering a change in the polling place for Wildwood and would like to see if this continues to be a problem in the future before

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proposing a change. The third area considered by board members involved the area in Cape Carteret/Bogue. Board members viewed the map recently provided by the county's mapping department and compared it to the map which was previously provided to the elections' department. The parcels on Fox Drive which had previously been in question during the 2005 municipal election is clearly located within the Bogue town limits and within the Bogue precinct. The map on file with the Elections' office showed the two parcels within Cape Carteret's town limits but in the Bogue precinct. There are two parcels currently listed in the Bogue town limits but still within the Cape Carteret precinct along WB McLean Dr. Board members will consider adjusting the precinct line to coincide with the Bogue township line once the information on this map has been verified. The board has instructed staff to contact the town clerks for these areas to verify that the information is correct on map prior to any official change in precinct line.

The Board was updated on the status of the one-stop early voting site which is being established at the Western Park in Cedar Point. Staff has researched the general statutes regarding a plan of implementation for this site and has attempted to contact the SBOE for direction on needed information. Board members instructed staff to fax a copy of the local board's resolution directly to Mr. Bartlett at the SBOE.

The next item on the agenda was an update on the polling sites for Indian Beach/Salter Path and Wildwood. Board members and staff have independently visited these two locations for inspection and agree that both sites meet the requirements for a HAVA compliance. Member Verdon made the motion that the Indian Beach/Salter Path polling place be relocated from the Salter Path Fire Department to the Indian Beach Town Hall meeting room and that the Wildwood polling place be relocated from the Wildwood Fire Department to the chorus room at Newport Middle School. The motion was seconded by Secretary Rivers. There was discussion concerning this location as there are three entrances and parking areas at the school. Secretary Rivers indicated the need for media coverage and suggested a map be provided to media prior to the election which would clarify the location for voters. Chairman Henderson suggested large signage be utilized to direct voters to the appropriate and most convenient parking area. Principal Lanning had volunteered to utilize the school's student government on election days to direct voters to the correct location. With no further discussion, the motion passed, 3-0.

Director Lewis updated the board members on a poll worker certification course which will be offered at Carteret Community College. The director stated she had been invited to attend a presentation by Mr. Chris McGinn who had been contacted to possibly instruct the class. Mr. McGinn is employed full-time with Guilford County Board of Elections as the Training and Education Specialist. He also teaches election certification courses for Guilford Technical Institute. Mr. McGinn had provided Director Lewis with copies of a syllabus, certification course instruction booklet, certification exam and examples of handouts he utilizes in the course. Director Lewis stated the course was not designed to take the place of any training currently provided by the elections' staff concerning procedures and voting equipment. The course is recommended for poll

workers or anyone interested in learning about the election process. Mr. McGinn stated during his presentation that the board of elections continued to have interest in the program in Guilford County and were currently working on a recertification course to add to their program. Member Verdon stated she would like to see the board support the course as poll workers who attended the feedback sessions requested additional training. Secretary Rivers stated he would also support the class and would like to see media involved in notifying the public. Director Lewis stated that Mr. Harker had indicated the community college would handle mailings for the course. Staff will provide names and addresses of poll workers to the college for notification. Board members discussed reimbursing poll workers for the class versus increasing pay for workers who take the class and pass the certification exam. Director Lewis stated she understood the fee to be \$55 - \$59 with seniors (65 and over) having no charge for the course. Member Verdon made the motion that the the board endorse the poll worker certification course to be offered by Carteret Community College, seconded by Secretary Rivers. Motion passed, 3-0. Secretary Rivers made the motion to pay workers, who complete the course and become certified, an additional \$25 per election. Motion was seconded by Member Verdon, passed 3-0.

During the Director's Report, Director Lewis updated the Board on the status of HAVA voting system grants. The SBOE has notified the county boards that there will be an additional \$30,000 available per county for "voting related items." The memo stated there would be more information to follow detailing approved items. There was much discussion regarding items that may be acceptable. Secretary Rivers stated he would like to see the county purchase additional equipment with the money if this is acceptable. Director Lewis stated she had received information from PrintElect regarding supplies such as lockable provisional bags and supply boxes for precincts. The HAVA compliant tables offered by PrintElect were discussed in detail. The price per table is listed at \$450. Secretary Rivers stated he could not agree with spending that much money on a table when there were other options available. He stated that most of the polling sites should have a table of the correct height available for use on election day. This would alleviate the need to store the tables and transport them to and from polling sites. Chairman Henderson agreed that tables could be purchased at a much better price locally if that became necessary at a later date. Director Lewis stated she had been notified that ballot printing, and leasing of equipment had been listed as items not reimbursable by the additional HAVA grant money. The Board directed Director Lewis to provide a list once the SBOE has clarified approved items. The Board was also informed that dates for a SBOE training session has been set for March 13 and 14, 2006 in Chapel Hill. Board members and Director will attend. Director Lewis reported that budget preparations are underway and a draft will be available for board members' review at the next meeting of February 15, 2006. Director Lewis also reported that Chairman Henderson will be out of town on the March 1, 2006 meeting as will the entire board on March 15, 2006. The board will reschedule the March 1st meeting to Wednesday, March 8, 2006 at 9 AM. The March 15th meeting will be cancelled.

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Chairman Henderson asked for Board Comments at this time. There were none.

Secretary Rivers requested that the Board meet in Closed Session to discuss as permitted by G.S. 143-318-11 to discuss a personnel issue.

The Board returned to Open Session. No action was taken.

Chairman Henderson adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Henderson, Chairman

Harry Rivers, Secretary

Sue Verdon, Member