

**State of North Carolina  
County of Carteret  
1510 Live Oak Street  
Beaufort, NC 28516  
May 17, 2006**

**The Carteret County Board of Elections met on this date at 9 AM in the Elections' office. All three board members were present along with the director and deputy director. Sean Conner, Chairman of the Carteret County Democratic Party, and Bob Pruett, Chairman of the Carteret County Republican Party, were also in attendance.**

**Chairman Henderson called the meeting to order.**

**Secretary Rivers made the motion to approve the minutes for April 18, April 25, May 1, May 2, and May 9, 2006; seconded by Member Verdon. Motion passed, 3-0.**

**Chairman Henderson called for public comment. There were none.**

**Discussions began regarding the primary election which was conducted on May 2, 2006. Mr. Pruett began the discussion and stated that he felt absolutely positive about the past election. He stated that he felt the board and staff had done a great job in getting the polls and equipment ready especially in light of the fact that all of the equipment was new and that we had a hotly contested sheriff's race on the ballot. He stated that he had some concerns voiced to him regarding the Western Park one-stop voting site. One concern involved a report of a gentleman who was handling ballots for the voters. Member Verdon, who visited the Western Park site on a regular basis during early voting, stated that the gentleman in question was an appointed poll worker who had been attempting to help voters insert their ballots in the tabulator. This situation was identified and resolved at the site. Mr. Pruett stated he also had concerns regarding parking at the site and suggested that some parking spaces be set aside and marked for voters in future elections. Director Lewis reported that she had spoken with the park attendant, Dave Almeida, who also suggested marking off parking spaces, more signage on Hwy 24 to direct voters to the site, and the possible use of the larger room for the one-stop voting rather than a classroom. Mr. Conner stated that he also felt that the initial rollout of new voting equipment had gone extremely well. He stated that he felt that he and others were "holding their breath" to see how things went, and were well pleased after the election. He stated that he did have concerns about some "eager candidate volunteers" who were improperly electioneering on election day. He stated that he witnessed a candidate's stickers that had been placed on the precinct officials' table in one of the polling sites when he came in to vote. The stickers had not been removed by the poll workers which was Mr. Conner's concern.**

Mr. Conner further stated that he did not want the success of the election to be overshadowed by the small problems that did occur as the voting system did work fine.

Director Lewis provided a copy of the training packet and special instructions that the poll workers had received prior to the election. She discussed the fact that this election was difficult for poll workers as they were not only dealing with all new equipment, but a primary election in which there were several ballot styles. She stated that some of the poll workers had indicated that their largest challenge of the day involved the unaffiliated voters. Some stated that they had voters who did not want to declare a party, but instead felt that as they were not affiliated with a party, they should have been provided a ballot with all races included on it. Director Lewis stated that although she felt that most of the poll workers had a clear understanding of the ballots and the process involved with a primary, it was evident that there are still poll workers who need additional training. Director Lewis asked that the party chairmen attempt to reinforce to workers what an important position they have as a precinct official. Director Lewis stated that she would like to emphasize to the workers that they are dealing with legal issues and that they are returning official election material to the elections' office that is subject to audit by the NC SBOE or certainly scrutinized should their be an election protest. Both chairman agreed that they will reinforce the responsibilities and degree of interest that is expected from precinct officials. Member Verdon stated that she felt that the office staff had responded to the poll workers' request for additional training by offering 8 small classes limited to 20 workers prior to this election. She also noted that the board and staff had implemented a course at CCC for election officials. Secretary Rivers stated that he felt that each precinct should have someone identified as a worker that could be trained by the office staff with specialized training. He stated that this person did not necessarily need to be the Chief Judge but rather, a person that could handle the additional responsibilities. Both party chairmen agreed that this was a great idea. Director Lewis stated that she would like to see the position of "rover" continue to be used in upcoming elections. Rovers were used to troubleshoot equipment problems but she stated that a lot of the questions presented to them revolved around voting procedures that they were not prepared to answer. She stated that she would like to see these workers take part in the poll worker training and be assigned to precincts that might need extra direction. Director Lewis also updated the board and party chairmen on the upcoming "Elections Process and Precinct Officials' Certification" course which is being offered again at CCC beginning September 9, 2006. Details were provided for registration and it was noted that the registration form is posted on the Board of Elections' website address of [www.cartercounttyboe.org](http://www.cartercounttyboe.org). Both chairmen stated they would attempt to contact interested workers and encourage them to enroll in the course. Chairman Henderson stated that he appreciated both chairmen being present and sharing their comments. He stated that the board needed to address

any concerns that involved legal issues, such as allegations of improper electioneering and would expect poll workers to be trained on how to deal with such

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issues. Both party chairmen thanked the board and staff for their hard work before leaving the meeting.

Director Lewis updated the board on the training class and on several inquiries that the office has received regarding referendum items. She also reported that the Public Buildings crew would be back in the Elections' office on Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> to finish the back storage area. Board members discussed the plans for storage and ultimately instructed Director Lewis to make the decisions regarding the renovation. Please see report attached to these minutes.

Chairman Henderson called for board comments. Member Verdon and Secretary Rivers did not have any comments. Chairman Henderson stated that he had looked at the list of meetings for 2006 and noted there was a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. Member Verdon stated that she would be out of town in August during a scheduled meeting on August 16<sup>th</sup>. All board members agreed that the meeting for July 5<sup>th</sup> should be cancelled or rescheduled. Chairman Henderson stated he would like to discuss these meeting dates at the June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. The board will vote at that time on whether to cancel the meetings or reschedule on different dates.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Henderson, Chairman

Harry Rivers, Secretary

Sue Verdon, Member

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