

GRAHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS OFFICIAL MINUTES

Thursday September 17, 2009

The Graham County Board of Elections met for a continued meeting on Thursday September 17, 2009 at 10:00 am at the Board of Elections office at 18 Court Street, Robbinsville, NC.

Present were Chairman Cody, Secretary Colvard, Member Ditmore and Director Farley.

Chairman Cody called the meeting to order. Chairman Cody made a motion for a ten minute recess in order to give Member Ditmore time to attend meeting since he is on his way. Secretary Colvard seconded. Vote was unanimous.

After re-convening from recess the chairman asked for motions on the agenda. Secretary Colvard made a motion to amend the agenda to: 1. Approve Agenda. 2. Public Comment. 3. Staffing Issues as a result of Asst Director Week's removal to tax office by the Graham County Board of Commissioners. Member Billy Ditmore seconded the motion and all were in favor.

There was no one present for public comment.

The Board discussed the need for clarification of letter received from County Manager, Lynn Cody, questions arose about who will work in office when Director is unavailable, is the use of volunteers allowed by state board, the Board asked the Director, Susie Farley to email state board to seek guidance on use of volunteers in office. They also discussed the fact that the Director will be unable to take time off, use accrued Comp Time, Sick Leave, Annual leave etc. The Director has surgery scheduled and will have to put that off due to the fact that the state has mandated the office be open fulltime and there is no qualified assistant to keep office open . . . Board would like to discuss issue with County Manager, Lynn Cody. Dirk Cody made a motion that the Board recess for 10 Minutes to allow Susie time to get in touch with the county manager and see if he could give the board some clarification in regards to part time help or any help in staffing the office in Susie's absence, what was the intent of the letter stating that at no time would the Graham County Board of Commissioners allocate any funding for an assistant. Secretary Colvard made the motion that the Board take a ten minute recess to enable the Director to make contact with County Manager, Lynn Cody. Member Ditmore seconded. Vote was unanimous

Board came out of ten minute recess. Joining the meeting is County Manager, Lynn Cody. Board Chair, Dirk Cody asked County Manager, Lynn Cody to clarify the contents of the letter received. County Manager, Lynn Cody stated the letter was drafted because of the need to cut cost. Chairman, Dirk Cody wanted to know if at some time it was mentioned that when it was slow in election office that Ms. Weeks be allowed to work in other county departments. County Manager, Lynn Cody stated that it had been mentioned and that Ms. Weeks had helped previously in other depts. Chairman, Dirk Cody said he just wanted to acknowledge that this board was working together with your board. County Manager, Lynn Cody said he did acknowledge this.

BOE Chairman, Dirk Cody stated that this Board is looking for guidance as to how to staff this office at times when help is needed. There are currently two separate municipals to be held this year and one municipal does have One Stop Voting and Absentee's. County Manager, Lynn Cody stated that he

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can't answer what his board's views are but they are currently using workers from the "State of Franklin" and looking for more "State of Franklin" workers to staff county offices. BOE Chairman, Dirk Cody asked County Manager, Lynn Cody what his understanding of who Director Farley worked for? County Manager, Lynn Cody stated Director Farley works for the Board of Elections and is appointed by the State, but the Board of Commissioners will be cutting the budget and for part time help as well.

BOE Chairman, Dirk Cody said he would like for County Manager, Lynn Cody to discuss with County Commissioner Chairman, Bruce Snyder the Election Board members desire for the Chairman of the Election Board and the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners to get together, go forward and find a resolution that will work for all involved. County Manager, Lynn Cody concurs with that assessment and will get with Chairman Snyder and set a date for them to sit down to discuss it. BOE Chairman, Dirk Cody asked the question of Lynn Cody "if this was ever discussed with Ms Weeks beforehand", and County Manager, Lynn Cody stated "no". Secretary Colvard made a motion that Chairman, Dirk Cody be the spokesperson for the Graham County Board of Elections to work with Chairman Snyder of the Graham County Board of Commissioners and in his absence Lynn Cody, Graham County Manager to try to find a way to resolve the current situation on office staff. Member Billy Ditmore, seconded that motion. All were in favor. The Board thanked County Manager, Lynn Cody for coming to the meeting.

The Election Board discussed payment for Overtime in lieu of Comp Time for Director Farley since she had no help and could not use comp time. Secretary Colvard, made the motion that until the Graham County Board of Elections had an assistant to help Ms. Farley that she be paid time and a half instead of comp time. Chairman Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Secretary Colvard made a motion to adjourn. Member Ditmore seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Dirk Cody, Chairman

Juanita Colvard, Secretary

Billy Ditmore, Member

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