

Monday September 28, 2009

The Graham County Board of Elections met for a Special meeting on Monday September 28, 2009 at 5:00 pm at the Board of Elections office at 18 Court Street, Robbinsville, NC. Present were Chairman Cody, Secretary Colvard, Director Farley, James Budd, Editor of the Graham Star, Steve Krake and Mack Tallant with McKinney and Tallant, Law Firm, and Bruce Snyder, Chairman of the Graham County Commissioners. Member Ditmore is currently out of town.

1. Secretary Colvard made a motion to amend the agenda to delete item #3 Judges Oath and to switch items #6, #5, #4 to #4, #5, #6. Chairman Cody seconded. Vote was unanimous
2. Board members reviewed ballot styles and a motion was made by Secretary Colvard to approve Ballots received. Chairman Cody seconded motion. Vote was unanimous Board agreed to meet Wednesday, September 30, 2009 at 5:00 pm for a continued meeting to do machine testing.
3. Board discussed staffing issues with Steve Krake, and Commissioner Chairman Snyder. Chairman Cody has explained to Commission Chairman Snyder the importance of having office open full time with additional assistance. The office cannot operate adequately with only one full time employee. In the event of an emergency the office is not protected, training, sick days, comp time, and annual leave are at this point impossible for Director Farley. Board tells Commission Chairman Snyder that in the letter board received from County Manager Lynn Cody, Mr. Cody offered the use of the State of Franklin employee's. The State Board of Elections has said that no employee's of the State of Franklin can be used in the election office. The board asks of Commission Chairman Snyder how is the best way to move forward and function from here.
4. Commission Chairman Snyder says he was under the impression those two weeks before and Two weeks after was sufficient and they would discuss more hours for the next election which was bigger. Director Farley explains the importance of having sensitive documents in the office particularly at election time and the difficulty that transpires when you have One Stop Voting in process and are unable to leave the office to assist people who are Curbside Voting, you also have Absentee Requests, and same day registering and voting. That the office must submit a Security plan to the state to be approved and at this time there is not a plan to submit that can be approved.
5. Commission Chairman Snyder states" Well, they sure didn't make it easy on you, I had no idea the election process was so involved"? ". Chairman Cody also tells Commission Chairman Snyder that the other surrounding counties that are close in voter registration have two full time people and one county (Clay) has an additional part time assistant. Secretary Colvard says worst case scenario is that Director Farley gets sick (H1N1) the office is left unprotected. Each computer has a different password, of which the board doesn't know. As this is for their

protection. You can't give out the passwords to a volunteer that is dangerous.

6. James Budd, Editor of the Graham Star requests to speak. Board recognizes Mr. James Budd. Mr. Budd states that he has covered a lot of elections in 30 some odd years; some small, some big and he has to say that the elections in Graham County run smoother than any election he has seen. There is nothing more stressful than an election.
7. Commission Chairman Synder states "It is a lot more than I ever thought it was". Chairman Cody asks Commission Chairman Synder what the board needs to do about putting a notice in paper for part time help and the board is in a bind with getting someone to train. Chairman Snyder says as far as he knows there has been no budget amendment to the Board of Elections and the budget has been left as is. Chairman Cody invites Commission Chairman Snyder and any other members of the Board of Commissioners to join the board at the next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 30th at 5:00 pm.
7. Board discussed the upcoming challenge. Director Farley showed board a letter from attorney Reed Fountain with Young Moore and Henderson; whereas Mr. David James Boulay will not be able to attend the Challenge Hearing scheduled as it is in direct conflict with another subpoena. Board has agreed to reschedule for Friday, October 16th at 10:00 am. Mack Tallant presented the board with a "Resolution Regarding Voter Challenge Concerning David James Boulay", which was adopted on September 17, 2009. Mr. Tallant explained to the board that at the Hearing on October 16, 2009; it will be up to the Challenger Mr. Christopher L. Griggs to present evidence against Mr. Boulay. If the board feels it needs more information to determine their decision then the board can at that time adjourn the hearing and subpoena any and all necessary documents to assist them in making that decision and come back and make a ruling
8. Secretary Colvard makes a motion to adjourn. Chairman Cody seconds the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Dirk Cody, Chairman

Juanita Colvard, Secretary