

Cherokee County Voter Registration & Elections Canvass Meeting

Friday, August 14, 2020

Board Members present: Richard Baines (chairman), James "Ed" Elliott, Lamar Batchelor, Randy Horton, Carlton Bridges, Jimmy Cash, & Doug Wilson

**also present were Amanda Walker (director) & Cassidy Nichols (clerk)

Board Members absent: Jason Blanton and one vacancy

Call to order: Richard Baines @ 10am; he also opened in prayer

Minutes:

Amanda passed out copies of agenda and canvass reports to all people present in the room, including candidates &/or representatives, as well as newspaper media.

Richard read aloud, to all members present, the oath; all repeated. Ed read aloud to Richard who, in turn, repeated oath.

A provisional ballot in Gaffney Ward 5 was cast. Amanda asked if the voter was present; no one came forward. Provisional ballot was not counted.

Ed, Doug, Randy, Lamar, Jimmy, & Richard performed hand count audit for August 11 elections; all numbers matched.

Amanda went over totals for the Blacksburg Fire Referendum Tax District 4. Randy made a motion to approve certification; all board members were in favor.

Amanda went over totals for the Blacksburg Fire Referendum Tax District 9. Lamar made a motion to approve certification; all board members were in favor. Everyone signed both certifications.

Amanda went over totals for Blacksburg Town Council. Ed made a motion to approve certification; all were in favor; everyone signed.

Amanda went over totals for Board of Public Works. Lamar made a motion to approve certification; all were in favor; all signed.

Amanda went over totals for City Council District 1, 4, & 6, as well as Mayor. Ed made a motion to approve certification; all were in favor; all signed. Richard informed everyone that there would be a run-off for City Council District 6, as well as Mayor, being that no one received the majority vote in either race.

Amanda went over totals for School Board District 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, & 9. Lamar made a motion to approve certification; all were in favor; all signed.

Richard informed everyone that School Board District 8 will require a recount because only one vote separated the two top performing candidates and neither candidate had what is considered "majority". Richard also explained that because of Covid19 and social distancing rules, the only people allowed in the room during the recount would be the board members, voter registration office staff, the candidate, or the representative of the candidate, as well as the media.

Richard adjourned the canvass meeting @ 10:20am and started the recount process in the Voter Registration's equipment storage room.

Amanda explained the process of the recount; had everyone present sign the room entry form for security purposes; and handed out results for each individual precinct involved in the recount. No media stayed for the recount. Shanese Dawkins (candidate) and a representative for Rosa Webber were both present and were asked to view the screens all of the DS200's in order to verify "zero" counts and then verify that the ballot bins were empty. Board members Randy, Lamar, Richard, Ed, Doug, Jimmy, and Carlton; office staff Tillie, as well as Renea from the auditor's office, all fed ballots thru precinct specific DS200's while the candidate and the representative watched. If a machine would beep, the candidate and representative were asked to look at the message on the DS200 and then watch as the issue was resolved. All ballots were finished being re-cast into the DS200's @ 11:48am. Candidate and representative were able to see the process of closing the polls and then proceeded into the "unity" room to watch Amanda retrieve totals from thumb drives, as well as print reports.

We reconvened in County Council chambers and Richard called the meeting to order @ 12:18pm. Amanda passed out official results and recount results to all present. Amanda informed everyone that, even after the recount, all totals remained the same; nothing changed. Lamar made a motion to approve results; all board members were in favor; all signed.

Richard informed everyone that the law pertaining to school board races was actually changed in 2007 from plurality to majority; he proceeded to read that law aloud. Majority means that you take the total votes cast (including write-ins) and divide by two. Because neither candidate, even after the recount, did not reach that majority number, a run-off will take place on Tuesday, August 25, 2020. Amanda informed everyone that she will send results to the state and have absentee voting available for the August 25 run-offs on either Monday, August 17, or Tuesday, August 18.

Shanese Dawkins asked for the write-in names; Amanda gave them to her after the meeting. Dawkins also asked if write-ins would be allowed for the run-off; Amanda answered that none would be allowed. Dawkins also asked if you had to vote in August 11 race in order to participate in run-off; Amanda answered that anyone eligible could vote regardless of participation in August 11 election.

Ed made a motion to adjourn @ 12:28pm; all were in favor.

Carlton Bridges Sr.

Carlton Bridges, Secretary

8-28-20

Date

*minutes recorded by Cassidy Nichols (clerk)