

# BOARD OF ELECTIONS

**Mrs. Charles A. Cardwell, Jr.**  
CHAIR

**J. Eric Elliott**  
SECRETARY

**John A. Redding**  
MEMBER



**Kathie Chastain Cooper**  
DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

## FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEETING- OCTOBER 18, 2005

Present: Mrs. Charles A. Cardwell, Jr., Chair  
Mr. J. Eric Elliott, Secretary  
Mr. John A. Redding, Member

Staff: Mrs. Kathie Chastain Cooper, Director of Elections  
Mrs. Laura Gerardi-Dell, Deputy Director of Elections  
Mrs. Pamela Johnson, Administrative Assistant

---

### Call To Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

### Approval of Minutes- October 11, 2005

Mr. Elliott stated there were several typographical errors that needed to be corrected. Mr. Redding moved to approve the minutes for October 11, 2005. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion with the suggested corrections and the motion passed unanimously.

### Approval of Absentees

There were 4 absentees recommended for approval by staff. The Board reviewed these. Mr. Elliott moved to approve the 4 absentees. Mr. Redding seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### Hearing- Felony Appeals

Mr. John Sebring, Jr. was present for the Felony Appeals Hearing. Mr. Elliott gave the oath to Mr. Sebring and Mr. Sebring signed the document. Mr. Elliott explained the prima facie evidence was the DOC list showing Mr. Sebring as a felon. Mr. Elliott also stated Mr. Sebring is listed on the North Carolina Department of Correction Public Access Information System shows him as being a felon and that his probation will be fulfilled in March, 2006.

Mr. Sebring presented each Board Member and the Director with a handout, including his synopsis of the situation. He stated he received a letter in

September, 2005, stating he was being removed from active voter status as a result of being listed as a felon on the DOC report. He stated that after visiting the Board of Elections office, he was informed he could appeal this action. He wrote a letter asking for a hearing with the Board. Mr. Sebring proposed that he be reinstated since he did not feel he is a felon. He presented the Board with a copy of the court records from Florida and stated it says adjudication of guilt was withheld, so therefore, he was not a convicted felon. Mr. Elliott stated he is listed on the State DOC website as a felon and that he contacted the Florida courts and was told he is listed as a felon there and his felony status is upheld in North Carolina.

Mr. Redding moved to deny Mr. Sebring's request until satisfactory official evidence can be furnished by the State of Florida stating he is not a felon. Mr. Redding also stated that documents must be notarized to be considered. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The Board invited Mr. Sebring to come back before the Board if such documentation is obtained.

Mrs. Cooper stated that in regards to Mr. Robert D. Miller, Jr., she received information from Terry Holbrook, Clerk of Superior Court, to support Mr. Miller's claim that he is not a felon. It seems Mr. Miller's identity is being shared with 2 other men who have been incarcerated. It is possible that the court records for these individuals have been intermingled. Mr. Holbrook is pursuing getting the court records straightened out. Mr. Miller was not present at the meeting.

Mr. Redding moved to defer ruling on Mr. Miller until a later date and follow up with Mr. Miller to reschedule the hearing. The Board discussed using Mr. Miller's driver's license to verify identity. Mr. Redding stated he would like to see proof of Mr. Miller's efforts in clearing up the identity problem and he would be satisfied with the driver's license as proof of identity. Mr. Elliott stated the Board will have to uphold the felony removal since Mr. Miller did not show up. The Board suggested the staff contact Mr. Miller and give him another chance for a hearing. Mr. Redding moved to amend his previous motion and defer action until October 25, 2005. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### Other Business

The Board and staff discussed photographers for the Boards' portraits. Mrs. Dell has a neighbor who is a photographer and is willing to do the portraits at a discount price. The Board and staff discussed scheduling and negotiating the price of the service. Mr. Redding stated he also has a name of a photographer that can be considered. Mrs. Cooper stated that Election Day would be best since the Board would be in the same location.

#### State Voting Equipment RFP

Mrs. Cooper discussed the State Voting Equipment RFP. She stated it will be a very tight schedule. She stated the County Commissioners last meeting of the year is December 19 and they will have to be briefed on the voting equipment prior to that. She stated she is trying to work out a preliminary briefing in November. Mrs. Cooper stated the Board may have to travel in order to see the voting equipment choices. The Election Directors Association has a meeting

December 5 & 6 that the Board may need to attend to view equipment. The Board and staff discussed the schedule of meetings for November and December.

Adjournment

Mr. Elliott moved to adjourn. Mr. Redding seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

s:/ Mrs. Charles A. Cardwell, Jr., Chair

s:/ Mr. J. Eric Elliott, Secretary

s:/ Mr. John A. Redding, Member