Franklin County Electoral Board November 3 - 9, 2021 Minutes

Wednesday, November 3, 2021, Provisional Ballot Meeting

In the Clerk of the Circuit Court's conference room, Darrell Powell, Chair, called the Provisional Ballot meeting to order at 10:10 a.m., Wednesday, November 3, 2021. Present were Electoral Board members: Darrell Powell, Kay Saleeby, and Jody Brown. Wally Young, the Franklin County Republican Chair attended as an observer. Powell informed the group that the Registrar, Kay Chitwood, and Betty Campbell, Assistant Registrar, would join the group as soon as they could get CAP started on its responsibilities. In the meantime, Powell reviewed what the Provisional voter process would be followed. At 10:15 a.m., the Board paused until the Registrar and Assistant Registrar could arrive. At 10:44, Campbell and Kay arrived; the Board reconvened the Provisional Ballot meeting.

The Board worked until 12:08 p.m. and then took a break; it reconvened at 12:10 p.m. and worked until 1:00 p.m. when it broke for lunch. It reconvened at 1:30 to finish examining all 1A and 1B envelopes.

The Electoral Board examined the 1A and 1B envelopes from all precincts and made the Electoral Board Precinct Provisional Ballot Log. The Electoral Board visually inspected the Provisional ballot box to confirm that it was empty and then placed a red seal # 1687 in the locking latch. The Board asked Chitwood to prepare information about each voter so that the Board could consider each provisional ballot after the Registrar's Office had the appropriate information about all 47 potential voters. Powell returned all the individual envelopes to the appropriate 1A envelopes and placed the 1A envelopes that had ballots in the locked ballot box.

At 1:59 p.m., Brown moved that the Board recess from Provisional Ballot consideration until such time that the Registrar's Office would be ready to report on all potential voters. Saleeby seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Wednesday, November 3, 2021, Canvass

At 2:02 p.m., November 3, 2021, Powell convened the Canvassing meeting to certify the November 2, 2021, election. Electoral Board members: Darrell Powell, Kay Saleeby, and Jody Brown as well as were Betty Campbell, Assistant Registrar, and Kay Chitwood, Director of Elections were present.

The Electoral Board began reviewing 2 and 2A envelopes. The Board affirmed that the #2 envelope from each precinct contained the signed Oath of Officer form and two SORs with their supporting EPB opening and closing tapes and the ICE machines open, closing, write-in tapes, and the Ballot Record Report. It also affirmed that the #2A envelope contained the Printed Return Sheet and open and closing ICE machine tapes.

As the Clerk of the Circuit Court was ready to close, the Board recessed until 9:00 a.m. on November 4, 2021, at 4:47 p.m.

Thursday, November 4, 2021, Canvas

Powell reconvened the Canvass meeting at 9:03 a.m. on November 4, 2021, in the Clerk of the Circuit Court's meeting room. Electoral Board members: Darrell Powell, Kay Saleeby, and Jody Brown as well as Registrar personnel: Betty Campbell, Assistant Registrar, and Kay Chitwood, Director of Elections were present.

The Board decided to produce paper records of all write-in votes from the ICE tapes.

Throughout the day, the Board continued reviewing the contents of 2 and 2A envelopes and collecting all the names on write-in records from the ICE tapes. The Board and the Registrar's office compared the results as presented by the machine tapes with the information that the precincts submitted on November 2.

At 12:23 p.m., Powell recessed the meeting for lunch; he reconvened the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

Powell moved to accept any reasonable part of any name of an existing candidate on the tape as the intent of the voter to support that person. Brown seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

At 4:58 p.m., the Board recessed until 9:00 a.m. on Friday, November 5, 2021.

Friday, November 5, 2021, Canvass

At 9:05 a.m., Powell reconvened the Canvass meeting on November 5, 2021. Electoral Board members: Darrell Powell, Kay Saleeby, and Jody Brown as well as Registrar personnel: Betty Campbell, Assistant Registrar, and Kay Chitwood, Director of Elections were present.

Throughout the day, the Board continued reviewing the contents of 2 and 2A envelopes and collecting all the names on write-in records from the ICE tapes. The Board and the Registrar's office compared the results as presented by the machine tapes with the information that the precincts submitted on November 2.

At 12:23 p.m., Powell recessed the meeting for lunch; at 12:45 p.m., he reconvened the meeting.

The Board continued its examination of #2 and #2A envelopes from the Franklin County precincts.

At 5:08 p.m., Powell recessed the meeting until 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 6, 2021.

Saturday, November 6, 2021, Canvass

Powell reconvened the Canvass meeting at 9:04 a.m. on November 6, 2021, in the Clerk of the Circuit Court's meeting room. Electoral Board members: Darrell Powell, Kay Saleeby, and Jody Brown as well as Registrar personnel: Betty Campbell, Assistant Registrar, and Kay Chitwood, Director of Elections were present.

The Board continued reviewing the contents of 2 and 2A envelopes and collecting all the names on write-in records from the ICE tapes. The Board and the Registrar's office compared the results as presented by the machine tapes with the information that the precincts submitted on November 2.

At 12:50 p.m., Powell recessed the meeting for lunch and reconvened the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

At 2:14 p.m., the Electoral Board completed its review of all 24 precincts and its collection of all write-in votes. The Board recessed until it completed the Provisional Ballot meeting.

Saturday, November 6, 2021,

Provisional Ballot Meeting

At 2:15 p.m., Powell reconvened the Provisional Ballot meeting. Electoral Board members: Darrell Powell, Kay Saleeby, and Jody Brown as well as Registrar personnel: Betty Campbell, Assistant Registrar, and Kay Chitwood, Director of Elections were present.

The Board confirmed that the seal #1687 that Powell fastened on Wednesday showed no evidence of tampering. Powell, then, broke the seal.

The Board began by hearing from the Registrar the particular qualifications of each voter to participate in the November election. The Board acted on each Provisional envelope with a decision to count the ballot or reject the ballot. The Board indicated action taken on the Provisional Vote Log and on the back of the Provisional Ballot envelope 1A from each precinct.

The Board accepted 12 envelopes as holding votes that the Board could legally count. It returned unopened envelopes that it could not count and the empty envelopes that had held votes that it could count to the #1A envelope for that precinct.

The Board secured the ballots that it could count in the locked ballot box. Powell shook the ballot box and opened it. Saleeby drew the ballots one at a time. Brown and Powell completed the form for recording hand counted ballots. Brown and Powell completed the Provisional SOR for the Electoral Board Precinct and read them to Chitwood. All three Board members signed the Provisional SOR.

Saleeby moved and Brown seconded a motion to approve recessing the canvassing meeting until Brown and Chitwood would have the election results ready to certify. The motion passed unanimously.

Brown and Chitwood agreed to meet on Sunday, November 7, 2021, at 8:00 a.m. to develop Excel files to show all the results from all precincts. On Monday, November 8, 2021, Brown was able to call Powell and Saleeby to complete the certification process.

Monday, November 8, 2021, Canvass

Powell reconvened the canvassing meeting at 2:00 p.m. in the Registrar's Office. The Electoral Board, individually, reviewed the files that showed all the results from all the precincts and the forms to send to Veris and the Department of Elections. They certified the November 2, 2021 election.

The Electoral Board set November 29 as a tentative meeting time to re-examine the progress Franklin County has made regarding security.

There being no other business, Powell adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

Monday, November 8, 2021, Additional Department of Election Forms

Later November 8, the Department of Elections informed Chitwood that they needed additional information about the Rocky Mount School Board, the Snow Creek Board of Supervisors, and the Snow Creek School Board contests. Brown contacted Powell and Saleeby to advise them that she and Chitwood would begin gathering that information on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at 8:00 a.m. and would call them when they had most of the forms ready for the Electoral Board's certification.

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

At 2:00 p.m., the Electoral Board members began reviewing the WRITE-INS – SUMMARY forms for Rocky Mount School Board, the Snow Creek Board of Supervisors, and the Snow Creek School Board contests and attached Excel spreadsheets to list the write-ins from each precinct for each contest. Chitwood and Brown had identified the Invalid and Valid write-in entries from each precinct in each contest. They added the following statement to each form: "The attached spreadsheet shows all the Official Records at our disposal." The Electoral Board members certified the three forms individually.

Respectfully submitted,

Jody D. Brown, Secretary

Darrell Powell, Chairman

Kay Saleeby, Vice Chairma