

# MINUTES OF THE BLAINE COUNTY ELECTION BOARD

November 8, 2016

The Blaine County Election Board met in a REGULAR meeting at 5:30 p.m., in Basement Room 6 of the Blaine County Courthouse. Advance notice of the meeting was performed by filing a written notice with the County Clerk on November 16, 2015 at 10:31 a.m. and by posting an agenda at the County Election Board office on October 12, 2016 at 2:22 p.m. One copy each of the notice and agenda is attached. The following members were present: Mike Russell, Chairman; Lana Melchor, Vice-Chairman; and Brenda Rice, Secretary. Tammy Edsall, Chief Clerk, Jana Loewen, Clerk, and Sheriff Margaret Parman were also present. Mr. Russell called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

## BUSINESS CONDUCTED AT THE MEETING

**1. BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Discuss and approve the minutes for the meeting held November 5, 2016. ACTION TAKEN: Mrs. Melchor moved that the minutes of the meeting held November 5, 2016 be approved. Mr. Russell seconded the motion. ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Russell-yes, Mrs. Melchor-yes, Ms. Rice-yes. Motion passed: three to zero.

**2. BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Approve Secretary's report of substitute precinct officials for the November 8, 2016 General Election/Special Election.

Precinct 2	Verla Patzkowsky (Rep)	Provisional Voting Officer
Precinct 7	Brenda Gordon (Rep)	Provisional Voting Officer
Precinct 11:	Teresa Whisler (Rep)	Clerk for resigned Clerk
Precinct 12	Brenda Stein (Rep)	Inspector for resigned Inspector
Precinct 12	Debby Bradt (Rep)	Provisional Voting Officer
Precinct 16	Delores Houston (Dem)	Judge for resigned Shirley Wigington
Precinct 17	Lynda Swaggart (Rep)	Inspector for Sarah Jane Garrett
Precinct 17	Brook Bernhardt (Rep)	Provisional Voting Officer

ACTION TAKEN: Mr. Russell moved that the Secretary's report of substitute precinct officials for the November 8, 2016 General Election/Special Election, be approved. Mrs. Melchor seconded the motion. ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Russell-yes, Mrs. Melchor-yes, Ms. Rice-yes. Motion passed: three to zero.

**3. BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Approve resignation of permanent precinct officials and in-person absentee/nursing home board members, if needed.

Pct. 12	Anastasia Shirley (Dem-Watonga)	Inspector
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ACTION TAKEN: Mrs. Melchor moved that the above resignation be approved. Mr. Russell seconded the motion. ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Russell-yes, Mrs. Melchor-yes, Ms. Rice-yes. Motion passed: three to zero.

**4. BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Appoint permanent Precinct Officials.

Pct. 11	Teresa Whisler (Rep-Watonga)	Clerk
Pct. 16	Delores Houston (Dem-Greenfield)	Judge

ACTION TAKEN: Mrs. Melchor moved to appoint the above list of permanent precinct officials. Mr. Russell seconded the motion. ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Russell-yes, Mrs. Melchor-yes, Ms. Rice-yes. Motion passed: three to zero.

**5. BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Process mail and nursing home absentee ballots submitted for the November 8, 2016 General Election/Special Election including opening the outer envelope and

examining the affidavits for sufficiency, removing the affidavit envelope, opening the secrecy envelope, and count the ballots. The process began at 5:35 p.m.

**ACTION TAKEN:** The Board members opened outer envelopes and examined affidavits for twelve nursing home ballots, thirty four absentee ballots submitted by mail and one Federal Write In ballot.

The Board determined that all twelve nursing home ballots be counted.

The Board determined that thirty four absentee by mail ballots be counted. The Board followed procedure to mark one substitute ballot that was returned by a military voter by fax. The Chairman read the voter's choice for each office on the ballot to Vice-Chairman who marked the ballot. The Board reviewed the substitute ballot and we agreed that the substitute ballot was marked exactly as the original ballot submitted by the voter. Mrs. Melchor moved that the one military ballot by fax be counted along with twelve nursing home ballots and thirty four absentee ballots. Mr. Russell seconded the motion. ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Russell-yes, Mrs. Melchor-yes, Ms. Rice-yes. Motion passed: three to zero. (Substitute Ballot Log attached)

The Board members then followed established procedures to prepare the ballots for counting. The Board observed as County Election Board Vice-Chairman Lana Melchor and Tammy Edsall, Chief Clerk scanned all nursing home, mail and the one remarked military ballots through the designated voting machine.

**6. BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Canvass all precinct results for federal, state and county offices included on the ballot and also the Town of Hitchcock Special Election.

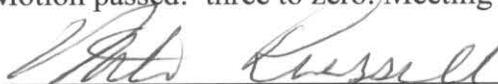
Throughout the evening, Board members were present and observed the processes and procedures involved in the receipt of voting devices, election supplies, and ballots from Inspectors; the tabulation of election results and production of tabulation reports and summary results reports; the transfer of sealed ballot transfer cases from precincts and sealed ballot transfer cases containing counted absentee ballots into the custody of the Sheriff. The Board also examined tabulation reports and unofficial certifications reports.

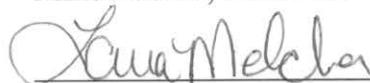
**ACTION TAKEN:** None. No motions were made and no votes taken in connection with these activities.

**7. BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Discuss dates and times for future County Election Board Meetings.

**ACTION TAKEN:** The Secretary informed the Board Members that the next County Election Board Meeting will be Friday, November 11, 2016 at 4:45 p.m. and that we had two Provisional Ballots cast and they would be researched on Wednesday and Thursday to see if they would be counted on Friday.

**8. BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Adjournment. **ACTION TAKEN:** Mrs. Melchor moved to adjourn until the next meeting. Mr. Russell seconded the motion. ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Russell-yes, Mrs. Melchor-yes, Ms. Rice-yes. Motion passed: three to zero. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

  
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Mike Russell, Chairman

  
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Lana Melchor, Vice-Chairman

  
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Brenda Rice, Secretary

