

MINUTES OF THE BLAINE COUNTY ELECTION BOARD

March 5, 2024

The Blaine County Election Board met in a REGULAR meeting on March 5, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at the Blaine County Election Board, Room 6, Blaine County Courthouse, 212 N. Weigle, Watonga, Oklahoma. Advance notice of the meeting was given by filing a written notice with the Blaine County Clerk on December 4, 2023 at 1:14 p.m.

Present: Mike Russell, Chair
Lana Melchor, Vice Chair
Brenda Rice, Secretary

BUSINESS CONDUCTED AT THE MEETING

1. BUSINESS CONDUCTED: Call to Order and announcement of a quorum. **ACTION TAKEN:** Mr. Russell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. with a quorum present.

2. BUSINESS CONDUCTED: Discuss and approve the minutes for the meeting held November 17, 2023.

ACTION TAKEN: Mrs. Melchor moved that the minutes of the meeting held November 17, 2023 be approved. Mr. Russell seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mr. Russell-yes, Mrs. Melchor-yes, Ms. Rice-yes. Motion passed: three to zero.

3. BUSINESS CONDUCTED: Process mail and nursing home absentee ballots submitted for the March 5, 2024 Presidential Preferential Primary/Special Election including opening the outer envelopes and examining the affidavits for sufficiency, removing the affidavit envelope, opening the secrecy envelope, and counting the ballots.

ACTION TAKEN: The Board members opened outer envelopes and examined the affidavits for forty absentee ballots submitted by mail. There were no nursing home ballots cast.

Rejection # 1: When opening the envelopes, the Board rejected a Physically Incapacitated ballot because the voter didn't properly complete the affidavit.

The Board determined that thirty-nine ballots were sufficient and would be counted. Mrs. Melchor moved to accept and count the thirty-nine absentee ballots. Mr. Russell seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mr. Russell-yes, Mrs. Melchor-yes, Ms. Rice-yes. Motion passed: three to zero.

The Board observed as County Election Board Vice-Chairman Lana Melchor, and Tammy Edsall, Assistant Secretary scanned all mail ballots through the designated voting machine.

4. BUSINESS CONDUCTED: Recess meeting, if necessary, and reconvene. **ACTION TAKEN:** Mrs. Melchor made a motion to recess the meeting at 1:34 p.m. and reconvene the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Mr. Russell seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mr. Russell-yes, Mrs. Melchor-yes, Ms. Rice-yes. Motion passed: three to zero.

The meeting was reconvened at 6:45 p.m. in the County Election Board office and called to order by Mr. Russell. All members were present.

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 certification reports.

5. BUSINESS CONDUCTED: Canvass the March 5, 2024 Presidential Preferential Primary Election results.

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

6. BUSINESS CONDUCTED: Canvass the March 5, 2024 Special Election results for the following municipality that Blaine County is the parent county election board:
Town of Canton

7. BUSINESS CONDUCTED: Secretary's report to the Board about current and upcoming election events, and discussion regarding future meeting dates.

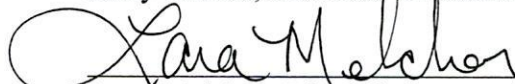
ACTION TAKEN: The Secretary announced the next meeting is March 8, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. If needed recount on Tuesday, March 12 at 8:30 a.m.

8. BUSINESS CONDUCTED: Motion to adjourn.

ACTION TAKEN: Mrs. Melchor moved to adjourn until the next meeting which is scheduled on Friday, March 8, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. 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 8:51 p.m.


Mike Russell, Chairman

Mary Larson, Alternate Chairman



Lana Melchor, Vice-Chairman

Karen Gilliland, Alternate Vice-Chairman



Brenda Rice, Secretary

