

MINUTES OF THE BLAINE COUNTY ELECTION BOARD

March 3, 2020

The Blaine County Election Board met in a REGULAR meeting at 6:00 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 13, 2019 at 9:48 a.m. and by posting an agenda at the County Election Board office on February 18, 2020 at 1:14 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, Jana Loewen, Clerk and Dwight McGee, deputy were also present. Mr. Russell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

BUSINESS CONDUCTED AT THE MEETING

1. BUSINESS CONDUCTED: Discuss and approve the minutes for the meeting held February 14, 2020.

ACTION TAKEN: Mrs. Melchor moved that the minutes of the meeting held February 14, 2020 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: Process mail and nursing home absentee ballots submitted for the March 3, 2020 Presidential Preferential Primary/Special Elections including opening the outer envelopes and examining the affidavits for sufficiency, removing the affidavit envelope, opening the secrecy envelope, and counting the ballots. The process began at 6:02 p.m.

ACTION TAKEN: The Board members opened outer envelopes and examined the affidavits for sixty-nine absentee ballots submitted by mail and four nursing home ballots.

Rejection # 1 & 2: When opening the envelopes, the Board got to the ballot envelopes and discovered that two ballots were for the February 11, 2020 Election instead of the March 3, 2020 Election. The voters had put the wrong ballots into the wrong envelope. As per State Election Board – reject ballots because wrong election. However, we cannot enter anything into MESA because we don't know who the voters are.

Rejection # 3: The voter marked 2 candidates and the eScan rejected the ballot. The instructions said if the ballot is mutilated, damaged or defaced to remark and this ballot didn't meet these requirements. The Board decided to reject ballot.

Rejection # 4: We received a Federal write-in ballot by email, Oklahoma law says they have to be faxed or mailed. The board voted to reject this ballot after Secretary called the State Election Board.

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 the Democrat Ballot to the 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.

The Board determined that sixty-nine ballots were sufficient and would be counted. Mrs. Melchor moved to accept and count the 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 members then followed established procedures to prepare the ballots for counting. The Board observed as County Election Board Vice-Chairman Lana Melchor, Jana Loewen, Clerk scanned all nursing home and mail ballots through the designated voting machine.

3. BUSINESS CONDUCTED: Canvass the March 3, 2020 Presidential Preferential Primary Election results for federal, state and county offices.

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

4. BUSINESS CONDUCTED: Canvass the March 3, 2020 Special Elections results for the following municipality districts which Blaine County is the affected County Election Board:

Town of Hydro

1 Proposition

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

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: 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, March 6, 2020 at 4:45 p.m. and if needed a Recount Hearing on March 12, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the main courtroom.

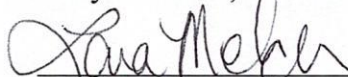
7. BUSINESS CONDUCTED: Adjournment.

ACTION TAKEN: Mrs. Melchor moved to adjourn until the next meeting which is scheduled on Friday, March 12, 2020 at 4:45 p.m. Mr. Russell seconded the motion. ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Russell-yes, Mrs. Melchor-yes, Ms. Rice-yes. Motion passed: three to zero. Meeting Adjourned at 9:03 p.m.



Mike Russell, Chairman

Mary Jac Rauh, Alternate Chairman



Lana Melchor, Vice-Chairman

Farrol Boyd, Alternate Vice-Chairman



Brenda Rice, Secretary

