

# STOKES COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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Robert (Buster) Robertson, Chairman  
Durward Bennett, Secretary  
Mike Pell, Member

Jason Perry, Director

## Board Meeting Minutes – July 11, 2017

The Stokes County Board of Elections met in session at 4:25 PM in the office of the board. Those present were board members Robert (Buster) Robertson, Durward Bennett, and Mike Pell, and Director Jason Perry. Also in attendance was Mr. Steven Hewett.

Chairman Robertson called the meeting to order. Each board member reviewed the minutes of the meetings held January 3, February 7, and March 14, 2017. Secretary Bennett moved that the minutes be approved as submitted; Member Pell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The board next took up again a request to move the polling place in West King precinct away from the American Legion building. Mr. Steven Hewett was present to discuss his advocacy for a move.

Mr. Perry provided to the board an update regarding this matter, as well as materials such as emails exchanged with the State Board legal team and a letter sent to American Legion Post 290 Commander Don Holland.

Mr. Hewett described his view of the events that transpired on the previous Election Day (November 8, 2016) at the American Legion voting site while he was at that location. The board had previously been given documents (such as a newspaper article) related to the incident that took place. Mr. Hewett maintained that North Carolina state law was violated because his rights as an electioneer were interfered with, and he felt harassed and intimidated. He said it was the Board of Elections' "responsibility to ensure the safety of voters" and to ensure that there was no obstruction, based on state law. He said the American Legion location was a hostile area for voting that was also political in nature, and therefore the polling place for the West King precinct should be moved to a neutral, secure area.

Chairman Robertson and Member Pell said that earlier in the year the desire to have this polling place moved had been brought to the attention of the board. At that time, Mr. Robertson noted that a motion to move the location failed. Mr.

Hewett said that he has filed as a candidate for King City Council for the upcoming municipal election and will be campaigning on Election Day. He has been banned from the American Legion property and would not be able to electioneer at that location. He indicated that he would seek legal recourse if necessary in order to have the polling place moved.

Secretary Bennett asked Mr. Hewett questions regarding the matter, including when poll workers at the American Legion polling place became aware of the situation and why Mr. Hewett believed the situation had transpired as it had. He asked the director how long the American Legion had been used as a polling place, and about any other incidents that had taken place there.

Chairman Robertson said the board would continue to take the matter under consideration.

The board reviewed memos from the State Board dealing with the municipal election schedule and with guidance regarding new quorum and majority requirements affecting action by county boards of elections under Session Law 2017-6. Mr. Perry also provided a statement and Q&A document from the State Board about the Election Integrity Commission's data request.

Director Perry provided to the board a copy of the elections budget that had been approved, and board members reviewed it. The director noted that funding for new voting machines had been included in the budget.

Secretary Bennett moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Pell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:44 PM.

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Robert (Buster) Robertson, Chairman

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Durward Bennett, Secretary

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Mike Pell, Member