

**CRAVEN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**March 1, 2006**

The Craven County Board of Elections held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, March 1, 2006 in the First Floor Conference Room of the County Administration Building. Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. Board Members Esther Hardin, William Miner and Director Tiffiney Miller were present. Also present were the following Citizens and County officials: Art Manning, Charlie Mitchell, Michael Speciale, Cathy New, Don Loudin, Lucy Dicktel, Bill Harper, Bob Shuck, Sue Book, Harold Blizzard, Perry Morris and Marshall Tutor, Investigator for the State Board of Elections came in after the meeting opened.

Michael Speciale candidate and citizen from Stately Pines, stated he wanted to register his opposition about what happened at the last meeting about the change over of Chairman. Mr. Speciale said the election of Chairman was not done legally and should only be done every two years. Don Loudin citizen from Taberna echoed the comments of Mr. Speciale. Lucy Dicktel citizen from Taberna said she claimed the same ideal preciously expressed. Bill Harper stated he was following the leader Mr. Speciale. Bob Shuck, Fairfield Harbour, agreed with what Mr. Speciale stated. Mr. Shuck said his basic question was about the complaint submitted to the State Board, no response has been received and Mr. Shuck asked that someone on the local staff pursue the response. Mr. Miner said he would like to bring everyone up to date on what happened. A complaint was filed by Mr. Miner and the Republican Committee of the County jointly. A complaint against this Board in it's entirety for the action that were taken. This complaint was filed with the State Board of Elections as directed by Don Wright Council for the State Board of Elections. Mr. Miner said this was the first step toward a remedy for the situation that the State Board of Elections return to its original finding that no new election should have taken place unless approved by the entire Board. Mr. Wright told Mr. Miner that the State was involved with a Campaign Finance matter at the State level and this could not be address until this was resolved. Mr. Miner said that the replacement for Mr. MacDonald would not be named until the complaint was heard because it was sent in before Mr. MacDonald passed away. Mr. Miner said he was as anxious as anyone else to see a remedy but this was where the matter was at this time. Ms. Dicktel asked if that meant that we backed up to square one where we were with the Chairman and remain there under the circumstances since the death of Mr. MacDonald. The Director said that the State had instructed that the two Board Members work together and when a signature of Chairman was required they would both sign until the issue was resolved by the State. The Director said it was the goal and her hope that the Board would work together until this was resolved. Mrs. Hardin said that the

Board would do just that, work together until this was resolved. The Board thanked the speakers.

Mr. Miner suggested that a change be made to the Agenda and that we address the booth recommendations. The Director said that the State was sending someone to sit in on this discussion and she was asked to leave the item on the Agenda as originally written.

On the approval of the minutes from the February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 meeting Mr. Miner said that the information needed to be added about what happened before the meeting. Mr. Miner stated that he was sure it was not put in the minutes because it happened outside of the meeting but that either the Election did happen or it didn't happen. If it did happen it must be in the minutes if it didn't happen it was not effective. The Director said she did not do that part because as stated, she did the regular minutes of the regular Board Meeting. Mrs. Hardin said this was done before the meeting was called to order. Mr. Miner said he wanted to call attention to Robert's Rule of Order and the State Code and asked for anyone to find in there where any action taken by the board outside of a meeting has any effect. Mrs. Hardin said she recommended that the correction be added to the February 1<sup>st</sup> Minutes. Mr. Miner said he had a draft of an amendment, which he read. The minutes of the February 1<sup>st</sup> were approved with the addition of this amendment.

Mrs. Hardin called for the report of the Director.

Report of Director:

The Director reported that filing ended on February 28<sup>th</sup> at noon. The Board Members were given a list of the candidates that filed with this office. One candidate, Ernest David Williams, withdrew from the race of County Commissioner District #7. We will not have a Republican Primary in this district because of this. The list of candidates was sent to a number of people on a daily basis that requested updates. The complete list will be posted on our web site.

Directors of Elections District 7 held a meeting in Onslow County on February 9<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of this meeting was to address some of the equipment purchasing questions. All counties will use the same programming so this will be a plus.

The Director said that the training schedule for equipment and election results software has been received. Class sizes are limited to two staff members per county for most of this training. This training for Counties in District 7 will be held in Duplin County. The extensive training on equipment and software will be done after the Primary. ES&S is programming this election for all counties in the

State. We should be able to program our own in November. As soon as all equipment is received we will try to set up demonstrations in areas around the county.

The Director said a copy of the order form with the HAVA funding allocations was sent to the State Board as required. The Board was given a copy of the equipment order form with the funding explanation sheet. The Grant acceptance agreement was signed by both Board Members and by Mr. Morris, Chairman of the County Commissioner's. Mr. Blizzard, County Manager, signed three copies of the contract that was sent to ES&S.

The Machine testing has started in Goldsboro. The Director is required to witness some of the testing. The first shipment of M-100's (optical scan equipment) is expected at any time. All arrangements have been made for the acceptance of this equipment. The Director said additional testing will be done by the office on all equipment that is purchased before it is used.

All old equipment was moved from the office on Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Miner asked if any of the terminals could be used for anything. The Director said she had explored the options of using these terminals for school elections but programming would be a problem. The old booths are stored at the warehouse on Old Cherry Point Road.

The Director said that the ballot information was submitted. Absentee ballots by mail are to begin on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Hardin asked if Mr. Blizzard, County Manager was ready to speak to the Board in reference to the voting booths.

Mr. Blizzard said that about two weeks ago when we were going over the order forms that were to be submitted there was some discussion held on the booths and the ballot bags. Mr. Blizzard was advised at that time that these items could be ordered separately. The machine order was completed in order to comply with the February 20<sup>th</sup> deadline. Mr. Blizzard said he asked Tiffiney to check for other sources for the bags and booths, she agreed. The following Wednesday Tiffiney advised Mr. Blizzard that she could not find any booths for a lower price that were of the same quality and could find no security bags. Mr. Blizzard said that Rick Hemphill was able to find the same booths on a web site, this site happened to be the manufacturer for our vendor. Mr. Blizzard asked Tiffiney to check with the State to see if we could purchase from someone else. Mr. Blizzard said that for the first time it was discussed about the possibility of retrofitting the old booths to find out what had been discussed and what the idea was like. Tiffiney had explained to Mr. Blizzard that this Board had discussed this and decided against it for whatever reasons and she would not bring the

idea back to this Board because this Board had already made a decision about it and that if Mr. Blizzard wanted to do that he would need to do it himself. At that time Mr. Blizzard planned to meet with them on this date to discuss the plan. Mr. Blizzard also said he had asked Tiffiney to check with the State to find out if we could retrofit the booths. To this date Mr. Blizzard has gotten no answers from the State Board of Elections about retrofitting this equipment or buying directly from the manufacturer. The following day, Thursday the 23<sup>rd</sup> which is a week again tomorrow, Owen Andrews who is the president of the company that has the contact to sell this equipment across the State, called Mr. Hemphill. I did not speak with him. He advised us that since his company had the franchise on this they could not buy direct from the manufacturer and what's more that Craven County had 24 hours to make a decision about that order. So that is when given that ultimatum discussing it with this board at this time was out of the question. So that is why then I asked Tiffiney about contacting you about trying to meet with us on Friday and realizing it was such short notice you couldn't and I certainly understand and apologize again for calling you on such short notice but that was my reason. Mr. Blizzard said he did invite three of the County Commissioner's to the meeting, certainly three or less is not considered a quorum of the board and asked them to sit in on the meeting. We discussed this of course Tiffiney was there, ya'll were not and it was discussed. Bottom line is by retrofitting the equipment that we currently have we estimate that we can save about \$40,000 as opposed to buying new equipment that we think will be practically the same. I have that retrofitted piece of equipment here if you would like to see it. This is the existing equipment that we already have, what we have done is removed the terminal with a writing surface. This is not a good quality here because this was pulled out of scrap, it would be finished. Mr. Morris said it would be aluminum. Mrs. Hardin asked if it would be attached and Mr. Morris said it would be loose so the light could be stored under it. It fits down in the bottom section. Mrs. Hardin asked if the light was battery operated, Mr. Blizzard said no this one was not but they were looking to see if they could find some. Frankly the only ones we have found are the ones that come with the booths that you are going to buy. Mr. Blizzard said they really didn't know what they looked like because they haven't been received but we know they are AC powered. Tiffiney said the booths we ordered are able to daisy chain, so that ten booths can plug into each other. Mr. Blizzard said they will continue to look for a battery operated light that would work all day (so we wouldn't have to keep changing batteries) or we would go with an AC powered light with a strip and make sure it is set up. Mrs. Hardin had two questions, where do we stand with the State as far as permission to retrofit. Mr. Blizzard said he was not sure that Tiffiney asked the question last week and to my knowledge has not received an answer on that. Frankly the law as I understand it talks about the system, that the State itself would make that decision and you would make that recommendation for the system. In my opinion I consider that not a part of the system, that is nothing more than a writing surface that we

don't necessarily have to have. Mrs. Hardin said her second question was when this went to the Commissioner's why wasn't it mentioned about retrofitting and the questions at that time. Mr. Blizzard said that was a good question. Mrs. Hardin said she wasn't privy to this. Mr. Blizzard said that he didn't know if he could give her a good answer other than the fact that we were still trying to figure out what the Counties cost would be after the HAVA grants and so on and so forth. The numbers themselves for the equipment had not been solid even at the time the Commissioners were approached because there was more grant money coming, and some discrepancy in some of the numbers. I will admit that the booths themselves they were there I guess it was the end of January when it was you went to the Commissioners with this. Those numbers are there. It was not until we got ready to finalize this that it stood out and the question was what are you going to do with these old ones you just going to junk them. They have no benefit at all but to us they seemed to have some life left in those, again we were looking to save what we thought were some substantial tax dollars. Mr. Miner said that when this thing first started the question was asked is why don't we savage these things. We were talked out of it, part of it was storage. What were the other reasons? The Director said the weight of them, the storage, some booths aren't as in good shape as others we didn't know where we were going to put all our new equipment. These booths are almost twice the size of the other booths and they are pretty heavy. Mr. Miner asked if the storage situation was now resolved, is that right? Mr. Morris said it was a matter of if you are going to store these or new ones. Mr. Miner said would we have place in our room for the new ones and this would not have required extra storage, the Director said no. Mr. Blizzard said he did not think there would be enough room in the existing storage room in her office for all of the new booths as well as the other equipment because the other equipment, not only the scanners but the cabinets that they sit on have to be in a climate controlled environment. The Director said yes we had talked about the cabinets that they would not be stored in the office. Mr. Blizzard said right and we don't know yet because I haven't seen them, we have seen pictures but I think the idea was that the scanners and the cabinets that they sit on would be stored in Tiffiney's area, the other new booths as well as the old booths could be stored somewhere because they don't have to be climate controlled but they certainly need to be dry. Mr. Miner said so storage is no longer an issue now the main subject is economy if we can save some bucks. How do you feel Mrs. Hardin? Mr. Marshal Tutor was present from the State at this point and Mrs. Hardin said she needed to know the legal standpoint of the State. Mr. Tutor said that he was just a fact finder today. Mr. Miner said you aren't bringing us any answers. Mr. Tutor said well most any questions that you have we would need to refer them to the State Board and they are standing by if we need to call them. What specific questions do you have? Mrs. Hardin said that actually Mr. Blizzard was making his presentation and there was a statement that no answer from the State has been given to us in reference to the retro fitting, if it is okay or we can move forward with that or

do we need to purchase new ones. Mr. Tutor said now I'm coming in here without a lot of information, now this is the retrofitted booth? I will take some pictures of that and take them with me. Tell me where I'm wrong because like I said this is all second hand. The Board voted for the booths in question right? Okay, now this proposal was sent to the County Commissioners and they too voted on that, is that correct? Mr. Miner said yes. Okay, now has there been any County Commissioner meetings to resend the original vote? Mr. Blizzard said no. Mr. Tutor said what it boils down to now before we could go any further it is a matter of contract law so this would need to be forwarded to the County Attorney, until the County Commissioners resend what they have already voted for it is contract law. Mr. Blizzard asked Mr. Tutor what contract he was talking about. Mr. Tutor said did the County Commissioners not enter into a contract when they passed this resolution on this budget matter? Mr. Blizzard said he didn't know. Mr. Tutor said well you need to check with the County Attorney. Mr. Blizzard asked Director if we did was that a contract? Mr. Perry Morris said we hadn't placed the order we made that vote on the best available information that we had at that time understanding there was still grant money coming in and there was a lot of factures still in play but this was the best available information that we had. Mr. Tutor said okay, still this is for the County Attorney. We can't make a decision on anything until the County Attorney says that there is no contract. If he says that, as far as with the Board voted for this budgetary item, Mr. Miner said that out of fairness the County Board of Commissioners was voting on bottom line, they didn't look and they didn't have access to any technical information. Mr. Tutor said it still needs to be forwarded to the County Attorney. So the assumption is about that specific item asked Mr. Miner. Mr. Tutor said that once the County Commissioners voted on it then it enters into rheum, and that is where the County Attorney comes into play and it should be very simple. If there is not a contract problem then we would move on to the retrofit it self. Mr. Blizzard said what if we take care of that other problem and then let's talk about the next question then because all the Commissioners have to do is go back and change it if it is in fact a contract. They can change it. Mr. Tutor said okay but it still needs to go through the County Attorney. Mr. Morris said they didn't meet as a quorum when we met because of the time factor pushed us into this meeting. There wasn't but three of us available the other Commissioners have been polled they are all in favor of the retrofit model it is a matter of timing and timing being our next meeting isn't until March 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Blizzard said the timing issue was prompted by your vendor, the one selected by the state that gave us a 24 hour ultimatum. I don't know if that is in the contract either. You may want to have your attorneys check that. Mr. Tutor said this is a county attorney matter. Mr. Morris said from the County side of it the County says we are going to resend that motion, we are going to take that off of the floor. Mr. Tutor said he needed to hear something from the County Attorney. Mr. Blizzard asked Mr. Tutor if he was an Attorney. Mr. Tutor said no. Mr. Blizzard said okay. Mr. Tutor said that he was

saying that this can not go any further until you get a ruling from the County Attorney. Mr. Blizzard asked what can't go forward. The resending of what was originally passed by the County Commissioners. Mr. Miner said, even though the vendor says he won't deliver them. Mr. Tutor said, even though, we need to get the County Attorneys input on this. Mr. Miner asked will that County Attorney also address the matter of about board approval prior to the county using equipment or does this fall under that statute? Well I think that I think as far as, Mr. Tutor said; now give me that question again. Mr. Miner read aloud 163-165.8. Is that satisfied merely by us making the decision that it is approved? Mr. Tutor said that would have to go to the County Attorney, the latter part of that aspect the final approval for this would be with the State Board. Mr. Blizzard said, I'm sorry, I didn't understand that. Mr. Miner said I don't get this. Mr. Tutor said that the final approval for this particular booth would rest with the State Board, does it meet the criteria? Mr. Blizzard said are you saying that the State Board has to approve a retrofit? Mr. Tutor said they would have to approve that, yes. Mr. Miner said what about the other counties that did a retrofit, did they go through this hoop. Mr. Blizzard said I don't know. Mr. Morris said this is the same booth we used the last election. Mr. Miner said but there are other counties that are retrofitting that booth, didn't we find that? Mr. Blizzard asked Mr. Tutor if he knew that, that other counties all the counties have voting booths? Mr. Tutor said he didn't know. Mr. Blizzard said but you know the State has to approve this, you know that. Mr. Tutor said yes. Mr. Blizzard said that seems odd that you would know that but you don't know what the other counties even have voting booths. Mr. Tutor said he was not there to be cross examined. What I expect you to do is like he said contact your County Attorney, he can then contact the State Attorney and let them work it out. Mr. Blizzard said well we tried to get an answer from the State Board of Elections a week ago about a retrofitting and we still haven't gotten an answer. Mr. Tutor said it may be that they are waiting to see what comes of this meeting and the meeting of the County Attorney. Mr. Morris said I am kind of lost on the county board having to go to the County Attorney as far as the County Commissioners. As long as the majority side of the Commissioners, they can bring any item back up as long as the majority side, the winning side of the vote brings it back on the floor. That doesn't have to go before the County Attorney. Mr. Tutor said yes, but you haven't had that meeting. Mr. Morris said right and we won't have that meeting until March 20<sup>th</sup> and the time factor on getting booths, getting ballots, everything the State is telling you to get done doesn't allow you the privilege to wait until March 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Tutor said right, that is why I suggest that you have your County Attorney get in contact with the State and our Attorney. Mr. Blizzard asked who was there attorney. Mr. Tutor said Don Wright. Mr. Blizzard asked will he be able to answer the questions about the retrofitting or only about the contact. Mr. Tutor said he will certainly be able to answer about the contract, I'm not sure about the retrofitting itself. You see I am going to take some pictures back for the Board. Mr. Blizzard said you will probably have a

decision before the May Primary, right? Mr. Tutor said he would hope so. Mr. Miner said to Mrs. Hardin, the statue says that you and our vacancy are responsible for approving these things before anything is passed on. How do you feel about that thing? Mrs. Hardin said actually what her next thing was to ask the Director if she had any reservations Mrs. Hardin said to Tiffiney, do you have any reservations about safety and the booths themselves. I know that you are asked me mine but I just wanted to check and see. Tiffiney said she would like to stay out of this. Mr. Morris said in all fairness, Tiffiney needed to stay out of this it was putting her in an unfair position. Mrs. Hardin said Mr. Morris was absolutely right. Mr. Blizzard said now if it was a technical position, that if she sees something that was wrong. Exactly, Mrs. Hardin said that is what she wondered. Mr. Blizzard said sure I agree. Mrs. Hardin said in terms of if we have the storage and if it is safe and the State says we move ahead with it does that send it to another level. Mr. Miner said no technically this was before we should do that, this should have been done before we submitted this to the County Commissioners. We should have approved something. I'm saying why don't we jump the gun and get our approval out of the way so they can play their game. So they can go back and forth, said Mrs. Hardin. Mr. Miner said now I have some reservations one of them is liability, safety and liability. Mrs. Hardin said that was what she was asking about safety, that is my question. Mr. Miner said does the acceptance, you say you are not an attorney what are you? Mr. Tutor said he was an investigator. Mrs. Hardin said that is why she asked if the metal plate was mounted or if it was just lying there because safety is an issue for me. Mr. Miner said does the acceptance of such a thing constitute placement of liability? Mr. Tutor said he would certainly think so. Mr. Blizzard said so would the new booths. Mr. Miner said one assumes that they have been through the good housekeeping procedure. Mr. Blizzard said that the terminal that was in the booth before was just laid in there just like the shelf is. Mr. Miner said he saw an advantage to those booths because all our precinct workers have set them up and down thousands of times. We do know our way around that booth. Mr. Blizzard said Tiffiney mentioned a while ago about the weight. You say these would weigh less than the new ones. Tiffiney said no, these would weigh more. Mr. Blizzard said well they certainly do weigh any more now than they did in the last election. Tiffiney said she didn't know she had not picked one up. Mr. Blizzard said wouldn't you guess that since the terminal has been removed. Tiffiney said she didn't know. Mr. Blizzard said never mind. Mr. Miner checked the booth to see how secure the shelf was, and Mr. Morris said that isn't just going to fall out. Mr. Miner said he just wanted to check and see. Mrs. Hardin asked Mr. Blizzard what was the base that was in there before. Mr. Blizzard said you didn't, it was a screen that sat in a slot, it was a touch screen. Mr. Morris said that these were actually little heavier that was a scrap piece that they found, that is 3/16 what we are actually looking into is 1/8. And what we are going to do is cut the bottom two corners so you can get it out. Mr. Miner asked why did it have to come out? Mr. Morris said to store a light. So that way

you have it all, the light the cord, everything you need just like a new booth would be. Mr. Miner said that because it represents an economy and because it is familiar to the workers and because we have the storage problem resolved, I would be willing to approve this at our level so that they can proceed. Mr. Miner referred to page 265. The County Attorney does or does not have to be involved. Mr. Morris said the County Attorney does not have to be involved for them to resend the motion. For us to go further with this before the next meeting, I don't think he can do that. There may be some legality in that, there may be something to where the County Attorney can over rule what the Board has said but I haven't found that written anywhere. Mr. Blizzard said certainly we would be well advised as Mr. Tutor suggested that we consult with the County Attorney, we can do that. Mr. Miner said are you saying you can't meet until late March. Mr. Morris said the next scheduled meeting was March 20<sup>th</sup> because we are leaving Sunday to go to Washington DC. We normally would have scheduled meeting the 6<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Blizzard said we can have an emergency meeting if it would meet the law. Mr. Miner asked if the county was willing to spec the work pending the approval of the County Commissioners so that it gets done in time is my concern. Mr. Blizzard said that what the three that had the meeting on Friday did, they felt pretty comfortable with the idea. Mr. Morris said, Ms. Sisk, Mr. Sampson, and myself came in on Friday. Mr. Blizzard called me at home and I said I would prefer to come to town tomorrow morning, I will drop what I have to do, to look at it. I don't want to make this decision over the telephone without seeing it, knowing what we are talking about, knowing what's going on and I had just talked to Mr. Allen on the phone, I said I know Mr. Allen can not come call Ms. Sisk and whoever else that can make it. We can't have but three at an informal meeting and so Mr. Sampson, Ms. Sisk and myself, Tiffiney, Mr. Blizzard and Mr. Moser and Mr. Hemphill. Mr. Miner said, the only remaining hurdle to jump thru is your legal stuff at the County level and meeting the time requirement for the selection. Mr. Morris said right, as far as getting the material that won't be a problem. Mr. Miner asked Mr. Morris, you accept that responsibility? Mr. Morris said yes, we can accept it, we've got assurance that can be done in a weeks time as far as cutting the material. We will have to do a mass buy on lights, we don't have control about that. Mr. Blizzard said the lights can be done rather quickly too, once we decide exactly on which one will fit the needs. Mrs. Hardin asked Mr. Blizzard, the next step would be you would go back and have a formal meeting with the Commissioners to get consensus from that group? Mr. Blizzard said only after we consult with the Attorney. Mrs. Hardin asked to resend? Mr. Blizzard, said yes, if he says, yes we can do that then we'd ask to have an emergency meeting of the board. Mrs. Hardin said to see if they rescind and Mr. Blizzard said correct. Mr. Blizzard said then we would rely upon the State to tell us if that is acceptable (to Mr. Tutor), and you are saying that is not a question, that is something they have to do. Mr. Tutor said yes, Mr. Blizzard asked if that was somewhere in the statues as well. Mr. Tutor said it is but I can't tell you where at this time, but I can get that for you. Mr.

Morris said, because that is what the attorney is going to ask us. Mr. Tutor said that is why when you talk to your attorney he will need to call our attorney. Mr. Charlie Mitchell (public citizen present) asked, In order for you to do this you are going to have to cancel a contract without knowing whether or not you can use this or not. That is sort of like walking a plank. Mr. Tutor, said if for some reason, now this is just my opinion, we are working under a time constraint, if for some reason I don't know what it might be that isn't, it could be that doesn't meet compliance, then it would just be a matter of the County Commissioners having to revisit it as soon as possible. Mr. Miner said the original order has already cancelled it isn't it? Mr. Morris said, we haven't placed an order, the order had never been placed. Mr. Miner asked what was the threat about 24 hours? Mr. Blizzard said that if we didn't it would be cancelled. Technically we never ordered it but...Mr. Morris then said, he knew that our county would be looking at 250 units, he wanted to make a one time order from the manufacturer so he ordered our 250 with the other, he ordered 3,000 units for the State. He wanted to make a one time order for business purposes, shipping, taxes, everything else, I mean, tell me what you need, what another county needs, I'll order it all at one time. Then distribute them out. Mr. Blizzard said when the information was sent to the state about what we were considering he took that, someone took that to mean that those were going to be ordered. Now they did go ahead using that same information and order the other equipment, the scanners, the DRE's and all the other things, those were in fact ordered. We specifically asked that the booths and the bags not be ordered and then when we spoke with the vendor on that Thursday and he gave us the 24 hour ultimatum, excuse me, it was the following Friday the Commissioners agreed that we needed to order some additional voting booths in order to try to shorten the lines at the polling places so we ordered 50 rather than the 250 that was on the original list to purchase. Mr. Morris said when we purchased the 50 that was fine, I mean we could get the 50, it wasn't an issue then. That was our thing some of them may need to be replaced, we don't think there is 50 bad ones. Mr. Blizzard said the truth is after you get those 50 and assuming all of these can work you are going to have about 100 more booths than you actually had last year. The reason for that is, you had roughly 200 booths before and you ordered 50 new ones. There were about 15 or 20 one stops that could not be reused, 20 out of the 200 last year, so that makes it 270 and there is another 30 something there but I can't remember. Mr. Miner said we have 30 DRE's. Mr. Blizzard said that is right, there are 30 DRE's in the purchase. Mr. Miner said okay the position is that we have done everything we have to do according to the requirements. The only issue now getting whatever is decided on, we have already decided, this Board has already decided, whatever other decision has to be made has to be tied to getting the units available on time. That is the only thing I really care about, plus the economy, that is great. I am inclined to approve this on spec that these guys can jump thru the hoops they have to. Ms. Hardin said my only concern again is the State approval and the safety issue,

and of course the delivery. You made reference that 50 had already been ordered is that right. Mr. Blizzard said yes, correct. Mr. Morris said as well as the bags, the bags were ordered. Mr. Blizzard said correct. Mr. Miner said what is the penalty if we don't get the equipment to the polling places when it's needed, we all go to jail? That is a question, what happens if we can't satisfy our voters? Mr. Morris said, just the Chairman of the Election Board, he is held until everybody gets to vote. No, I was just kidding. Mr. Blizzard said I would hope that frankly if there is a problem that pertains to voting booths would be to revise that part so that it does not in any way at all interfere with the other equipment that has already been ordered but I'm not an attorney. Mr. Miner said in order to get off dead center that I make a motion Esther between the two of us that we forefeel our requirement and approve the retrofit system on the old booths, that would make it official. Mrs. Hardin said, may I amend that to say, given that it meets the safety standards. Mr. Miner said no, I want to get us out of the picture, then they can solve the problems. Mrs. Hardin said okay. Mr. Miner said they created them they can solve them. Do you second? Mrs. Hardin said, I second. Mr. Blizzard said Thank you, we will discuss this with the County Attorney right away and based on his recommendation we will go from there, if time is an issue we can see if the Board wants to have an emergency meeting. Mr. Miner said good job. Mrs. Hardin asked Mr. Blizzard if that was a guarantee, and Mr. Blizzard said yes ma'am, absolutely. Mr. Morris said he would leave the booth so Mr. Tutor could get some pictures. Mr. Blizzard asked, is there anything else I can help you with Mr. Miner? Mr. Miner said, not a thing I can think of. Thank you.

Mr. Miner said now back to the report of the Director:

The Director said that as mentioned before our State Election District Technician is Rosemary Blizzard, she will be here when the equipment is delivered to make sure it is secured.

The 2006-2007 budget request review was next, Mr. Miner asked that it be moved to the end of the agenda and get the other things out of the way.

The Director said that we have ordered the additional phone for the desk in the scanning area. If we have additional help in the office, they will have a phone.

New Business:

Approve new voter registrations for the month of February. 330 new voter registrations, 133 changes of information, 170 removed voters. 427 verification mailings sent and 14 confirmation mailings sent. This will certainly pick up as we get closer to the Election. The Board said they liked the new way of reporting the information.

The Director said she had not had time to complete the activity report.

Budget information for the month of February has not been received from Finance yet. Mr. Miner asked if there was anything we were off in, Director said no, we are waiting to see how much the ballots cost us.

Old Business:

The supplemental technology grant report was completed; we sent back a refund of \$13.00 to the State.

The Board was reminded about the training in Chapel Hill on March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Director requested that the Board hold the Director Duties, Model Code of Ethics, Confidentiality Information and Memo of Understanding until we have a full Board. Mr. Miner asked if there were any statute requirements, Director said the old ones would be in place until new ones were signed. Mr. Miner asked to include in this the Memo of Understanding with the County. The Director said this has to be done every time the Board changes.

The Board was given a copy of the Campaign reporting manuals. The office did not have these when filing began but they were mailed out to the candidates that had already filed.

Budget information:

Discussion was held on additional one stop voting sites, the Board decided to ask for two additional sites in the budget. The actual site placement will be decided at a later date.

The Board discussed the reclassification of the office employees. Director has requested that Leone be classified as an Election Specialist, Lisa to be classified as an Election Coordinator. Both employees are currently Administrative Support Assistants, Director said that both employees do much more than that and should be paid accordingly.

The Board agreed that they would meet to view the County Managers recommended budget when it is returned to the office. This would be before it is submitted to the County Commissioners and if we have any problems with what the County Manager recommends this would be the appropriate time to address this matter.

Announcements:

The Next regular meeting will be held on April 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Members Present: Tiffiney Miller, Director  
Approved: May 9, 2006  
Esther Hardin  
William Miner

Public Present:  
Art Manning  
Charlie Mitchell  
Michael Speciale  
Cathy New  
Don Loudin  
Lucy Dicktel  
Bill Harper  
Bob Shuck

County and State Officials:  
Marshall Tutor, SBOE  
Harold Blizzard, County Manager  
Perry Morris, Chairman County Commissioners

News Media:  
Sue Book, Sun Journal