

## Election Board Minutes

7-19-19

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

**Present: Members:** S. Paul Crooks, Election Chairman, Judge Dan Howsare and R. Alan Smith. **Others Present:** Debra Brown, Director of Elections, Attorney Dean Crabtree, Attorney Lesley Childers-Potts, county residents and the press.

Judge Howsare addressed the issue of the response letter that was sent out to the 68 candidates. He had drafted a letter that would extend the date that the candidates could come in and file the campaign finance forms and not be in violation of the law. Commissioner Crooks read the letter. Judge Howsare made a motion to approve and send the letter to the candidates and it was seconded by R. Alan Smith. The motion was approved as presented.

The discussion then was whether to send the letters certified or regular mail. After a brief discussion Judge Howsare made a motion to approve sending the letters certified and R. Alan Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved as presented.

The next discussion was to refund the checks to those candidates that have paid. A motion was made by Judge Howsare to refund all checks to the candidates that paid and R. Alan Smith seconded the motion. A list will be sent to the Finance Department for checks to be cut and sent. The motion was approved as presented.

There was a lot of discussion about future compliance regarding the forms. Judge Howsare and Commissioner Crooks stated that it is the responsibility of the candidate, not the responsibility of the Election Board or the staff of the Election office. Attorney Crabtree commented that it is not the responsibility of the staff or the elections board to provide instruction. Judge Howsare stated it gives the appearance of helping out the candidates and that is not the job of the staff or the election committee.

A suggestion was made to put something on the website stating that it is the responsibility of the candidate to complete the paper work and not the responsibility of the elections board or the elections office staff.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:38 p.m. per Commissioner Crooks.