CHAVES COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

William E. Cavin, Chairman Jeff Bilberry, Vice Chairman



Dara Dana, Member T. Calder Ezzell Jr, Member Richard C Taylor, Member

William B. Williams, County Manager

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2022 CHAVES COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER – JOSEPH R SKEEN BUILDING #1 ST. MARY'S PLACE, ROSWELL, NM 88203

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bilberry called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Dana led the pledge and Commissioner Ezzell led in prayer.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Those present were Commissioners Bilberry, Ezzell, Dana, and Taylor. Commissioner Cavin called in to the meeting.

Also present were County Manager, Bill Williams, Public Services Director, Mac Rogers, IT Director, Andrew Rey, Finance Director, Anabel Barraza, County Clerk, Cindy Fuller, media, staff, and guests.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON MAY 26, 2022

MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER DANA SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER EZZELL

IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, DANA, AND TAYLOR

OPPOSED: NONE

AGENDA ITEMS

A. CANVASS ELECTION

1. CANVASS OF THE 2022 PRIMARY ELECTION PRESENTER: Cindy Fuller, Chaves County Clerk

Mrs. Fuller thanked all the election workers, the 12 polling sites, Mounted Patrol, and her staff. Ms. Fuller recommended that the next time polling sites are set they move away from churches and schools. She directed them to a packet that they were given of information from the 2022 Primary election. Page 13, Voter turnout, was discussed first. There were 27,091 eligible voters for this election, 17,505 Republicans, 9,233 Democrats, and 353 Libertarians. 7,234 ballots were issued and 7,232 ballots were counted. There was one absentee ballot that was rejected and one provisional ballot, issued on election day, that was rejected. The total voter turnout for this election was right around 27%. Voter turnout by party was listed on their handout. The next set of documents was a breakdown of the early voting numbers by dates, location, and party. The next page was an election day breakdown by location, party, and gender.

Ms. Fuller stated this was the first election where same day voter registration was available at every polling site through election day. It went smoothly except for the fact that 296 same day registrations were processed. That was all Jennifer, who works in the Clerk's Office, did on election day was process registrations. A breakdown was given:

157 Registrants just updated or changed an address

28 New Registrants: 25, Republicans, 1 Democrat, and 2 Libertarians

7 Registrants just updated their name

104 Registrants made political party changes – New Mexico hold closed Primaries, so voters have to be registered with one of the major parties, Republican, Democrat, or Libertarian. For this election, if a voter was not registered with a major party they were allowed to update to a major party. The breakdown is as follows:

77 Registrants changed from DTS/WFP/INM to Republican

- 19 Registrants changed from DTS/BFA to Democrat
- 8 Registrants changed from DTS to Libertarian

Ms. Fuller discussed the provisional ballot that was issued on election day. Voter A and Voter B were registered at the same address, 545 Bottomless Lakes Road. Voter A was issued a ballot in precinct 45 and Voter B received a ballot in precinct 73. A breakdown of the street file in the voter registration system was presented to show that addresses in 545 were listed in two different street files with two different number ranges. The street file set up for voters in 548 Bottomless Lakes had registrants listed whose address is 545. The street file set up for voters in 545 through 743, odd addresses, also contains registrants whose address is 545. The difference they are seeing in this is that if the unit number is listed right after the 545, the system is placing them in the 548-street file listing, if the unit number is listed at the end of the address, the system is placing them in the 545 to 743 listing. She stated she can not explain to them why the system took voters from 545 and placed them in the 548 designation. She stated she has reached out to the State and asked for an explanation concerning this and has not received a response. On election night they used the interactive map on the state legislature website, and it placed the address in precinct 73. A provisional ballot was issued to Voter A for precinct 73. Upon further investigation they discovered that addresses at 545 should be in precinct 45.2 and 548 should be at 73.1. Voter A received the correct ballot when she voted and should not have received the provisional ballot and that is why it was rejected. Moving forward, the office will fix the addresses so the unit number is at the end of the address hoping this will place them where they are supposed to be.

Further discussion and questions from the Commissioners:

Commissioner Ezzell asked if the road was the boundary line and stated all the RV sites are clearly west of the road.

Ms. Fuller stated they used the legal description from the Assessor's website for the property. They can definitely revisit this.

Commissioner Cavin asked if this occurred because of redistricting.

Ms. Fuller stated she doesn't think it has anything to do with redistricting. It's a SERVIS issue that put the address in the wrong street file.

Commissioner Dana asked if this issue could affect an apartment complex.

Ms. Fuller stated it could.

Commissioner Dana stated that when a person goes to register to vote they need to make sure their apartment number or space number is on the registration.

Ms. Fuller stated she doesn't think this is something that is a voter responsibility, this is an issue that needs to be fixed by the State. Stephanie has seen the system update other addresses appropriately.

Commissioner Dana asked how often the system is updated.

Ms. Fuller stated it's a live system and is updating all the time.

Commissioner Ezzell asked if it's possible it's wrong in the Assessor's Office.

Ms. Fuller stated she could not speak to that.

Commissioner Dana asked if both people got to vote.

Ms. Fuller stated yes.

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE THE CANVASS FOR THE 2022 PRIMARY ELECTION

MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER DANA SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER TAYLOR

IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, DANA, AND TAYLOR

OPPOSED: NONE

B. AGREEMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS

2. AGREEMENT A-22-032 FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING BETWEEN CHAVES COUNTY AND THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

PRESENTER: Bill Williams, Chaves County Manager

Mr. Williams stated that over the course of the last several months, Chaves County has been negotiating with the International Union of Police Association, "IUPA". An agreement has been reached and approved by the membership of the IUPA. Staff recommends their approval now so they can get their pay increase started as soon as possible.

MOTION MADE TO: APPROVE AGREEMENT A-22-032

MOTION MADE BY: COMMISSIONER EZZELL SECOND MADE BY: COMMISSIONER DANA

IN FAVOR: COMMISSIONERS CAVIN, BILBERRY, EZZELL, DANA, AND TAYLOR

OPPOSED: NONE

UNSCHEDULED COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED TO THREE MINUTES PER VISITOR NOT TO EXCEED 15 MINUTES. NO FORMAL ACTION WILL BE TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION.

Rita Kane Doerhoefer, very narrow, unstriped, Chicago Cubs mailbox, Mark Road.

If you listen to the city's council meeting for almost seven hours, they passed something for Seniors. They have a Committee on Aging, and they want to help Seniors do little things by giving them tips on how they should do things like making sure you're hydrated and checking the air pressure in your tires. She would like to ask them if they would something for the County people. She went to RSVP before coming to the meeting, she is the President, and she suggested to the Executive Director that maybe they have the money to do this for our Seniors. She spoke about the Midway Senior Center and how Commissioner Dana has gone with her numerous times to visit the Center. RSVP is the Chaves County retired senior volunteer program. The city did not vote for seniors to be included outside the city of Roswell. She discussed how she was supposed to teach at the Boys and Girls Club and didn't feel well and Commissioner Dana came and helped all day. She cleaned up their messes, took care of them when they got dirty, she stepped up to the plate and helped Ms. Rita. They painted rocks for the Courthouse lawn for the UFO Festival. She stated Chaves County is well represented.

There were no comments online.

MANAGER'S COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Williams thanked the Clerk's Office for always doing a great job, not only with elections but year-round. He thanked all the poll workers for their great work. He thanked Emma, Anabel, and Dina Holcomb with the Union negotiations that have taken place over the last 18 months. He is glad it passed. He thanked the Union representatives and acknowledged the Union President, Jeromy Parmer, who was in the room. He thanked all of Chaves County for everything they do.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMUNICATIONS

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR

Commissioner Taylor stated he would like to echo what Bill said in thanking the Clerk's Office, Cindy, and her great staff for doing a wonderful job on this election. He asked everyone to please drink a lot of water because this heat can be devastating. Please take care of yourself in this hot weather.

COMMISSIONER DANA

Commissioner Dana thanked Cindy and her staff. She appreciates everything they do. She stayed at home at watched results on the Secretary of State's website so she wouldn't be underfoot. We find out about problems, but we take care of them and notify the Secretary of State's Office. We also take these problems and discuss them with other counties, what have they incurred and how do they deal with the problems. When people start griping about our elections, she asks them if they have ever worked a poll and 99.9% never have and don't want to. She thanked the people that step up to work the polls. She thanked Ms. Rita and stated they had a good time.

The new director at the Boys and Girls Club will be amazing, and she is glad he is stepping up. Rick will be living in Roswell; he moved his family back here to be the Director of the Boys and Girls Club. They are doing renovations to the building and have some amazing kids over there. The Midway Joy Center is seeing more Seniors coming with the improvements. She appreciates everyone that helped with the Union negotiations and thanked Anabel. She stated we're all family and want to take care of each other.

COMMISSIONER EZZELL

Commissioner Ezzell stated he would like to reiterate everything that has already been said. He thanked Cindy for conducting a wonderfully smooth election. He thanked everyone on both sides that got us to a collective bargaining agreement for the Deputies. He congratulated Singleton Ranches for their third-place finish in the Coors Ranch Rodeo finals in Amarillo.

COMMISSIONER BILBERRY

Commissioner Bilberry thanked everyone for their hard work and service and stated it makes this county great.

COMMISSIONER CAVIN

Cindy Fuller

Commissioner Cavin stated he would like to echo everything that was said. He congratulated Cindy and stated he got knocked off the phone when they were voting on the election results, and he voted to confirm the results. He's thankful for the Union negotiations and that the folks in the Sheriff's Department will be getting a well-deserved raise. He thanked them for the service they provide to our community. He told everyone to be safe and he appreciates everyone. God bless America.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 am.

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BOARD OF CHAVES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

William E. Cavin, Ghairman

Jeff Bilberry, Vice-Chairman

Dara Dana, Member

T. Calder Ezzell Jr, Member

Richard C. Taylor, Member