

**BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2015**

THE BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS MET ON JANUARY 22, 2015 AT 5:30 P.M., AT 35 WOODFIN STREET, MEETING ROOM #330, IN ASHEVILLE NORTH CAROLINA, WHERE AND WHEN THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS WAS TRANSACTED:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jay Watson, Chairman
Bob Knapp, Secretary
Lucy Smith, Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Trena Parker, Director
Victoria Leyva, Staff
Joyce Kanavel, Staff
John Noce, Staff

Court Reporter Dee Ann Michaels

VISITORS: Bill Whitehead, Kathy Rhodarmer, Jane Bilello, George Keller, Phillip Wolfe, Jerry Lemonds, Mark Barrett, Annie Butzner

The challenged voter hearing was called to order at 5:30 p.m. The hearing on the challenges adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

Director Parker provided the Board with the proposed 2015/2016 budget. Included in the budget is a request for a voting system upgrade, which was reviewed with the Commissioners on January 20th. Director Parker stated that our current voting equipment is 10 years old, which is considered the end of its recommended life cycle. Secretary Knapp moved to approve the request of \$1 million for the purchase of new voting machine equipment. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Parker informed the Board that she was notified Friday evening by Diane Price that our offices will be moving within the next 2 months to 73 McDowell Street. There was discussion regarding the very poor condition of the building and the Board heard comments from others familiar with the building. Secretary Knapp suggested Chairman Watson write a letter to the county expressing the Boards concerns with moving to this building in its current condition. Chairman Watson stated that he would like to set up a date for a board meeting so he and the Board could visit the building. Director Parker stated she would contact Greg Isreal to set up a time for the Board to look at the building. Secretary Knapp recommended that we not accept the office move to 73 McDowell Street due to no ADA access, sensitive security issues, no board room, no staff meeting room, no room for increased staff for upcoming elections, no way to load pallets of ballots, no windows in offices, and the poor condition of the building. The Board requested further information, and Director Parker stated that she will seek further information regarding the move.

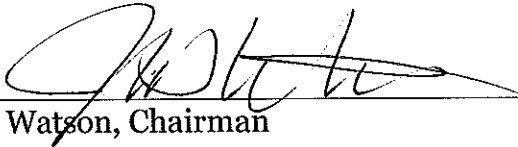
Director Parker advised the Board that the proposed budget plans for 4 elections as opposed to 3 due to the Presidential Preference Primary and added that the budget does not include the possibility of a second primary. Director Parker stated that

administration director Greg Isreal's estimation for a partial renovation to the new offices is \$320,000. Chairman Watson stated that given the current condition of the property, the needs of Election Services and the layout of the building, he does not believe that \$320,000 would be sufficient for the necessary work to the building. Director Parker stated that she added \$100,000 in the proposed budget to lease a warehouse for the equipment that is currently stored in the Allport Building. Chairman Watson stated that the Board will not take action on the proposed budget without information on a possible move of our offices to 73 McDowell Street.

Secretary Knapp moved to approve the minutes of November 14, 2014 and November 21, 2014. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board went into executive session at 6:33 p.m. in order to discuss personnel matters, pursuant to North Carolina G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6).

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.



Jay Watson, Chairman

Bob Knapp, Secretary



Lucy Smith, Member