

ANTRIM COUNTY BOARD OF CANVASSERS

The meeting of the Antrim County Board of Canvassers met Wednesday, November 5, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. and Thursday, November 6, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. in the County Clerk's office in the Antrim County Building.

Present: Janice Olach, Brad Brown, Cameron Lacy, James Nothoff

Absent: None

Also present: Sheryl Guy, County Clerk, Dawn LaVanway, Triston Cole, Randy Bishop, and Connie Wing

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 1:05 p.m.

Randy Bishop spoke of concerns of a registered voter in Chestonia Township receiving the incorrect ballot which afforded him the ballot that was for the race of Commissioner District #9 containing the name of candidate (Christian Marcus – Republican) and that he was not given the correct ballot. The ballot that he should have been given was for the race of Commissioner District #7 containing the names of candidates (Dawn LaVanway – Republican and Laurie Stanek – Democrat). He continued with the position that it's possible that others may have received an incorrect ballot, referring to the voters on Cinder Hill Road, Kregulka Road and S U.S 131. With concerns of voters getting the incorrect ballot, he suggested that the Township and Election Commission come up with a constructive solution to vote the position again to prevent the position of possible voter fraud and put the Board on notice that he will be filing a complaint with the Antrim County Prosecuting Attorney and that he has notified the Bureau of Elections with this complaint. He proceeded to make the request that the Board of Canvassers not certify the results for the townships which represent Commissioner District #7 and Commissioner District #9 as follows: Echo Township, Jordan Township, Warner Township or Chestonia Township, until further information and direction can be gathered by the County Clerk after discussion and review with the Bureau of Elections.

Dawn LaVanway candidate for the Chestonia Township Commissioner District #7 Republican spoke in support of Randy Bishops' statements. Stating that there is the possibility that up to 23 voters could have been given the incorrect ballot and in that case voters would have been unable to cast their vote for her which may have caused her to lose the election. She stated that she will be requesting in writing that the Chestonia Township not be certified until the Clerk can determine the cause of problem.

Triston Cole was also in support of Randy Bishop and Dawn Lavanway. He stated that he was the Chairman of the Republican Party at the time of the Re-Districting of the Commissioner Districts after the 2010 Census and that the change of Commissioner District lines was a very intense process and caused the Election Commission to establish Commissioner District lines that did not line up with Township lines as the Board was establishing even populations in the Commissioner Districts throughout the County.

The members of the Board agreed that the statement alleging fraud is very threatening and that the situation is very serious and that errors can be made by those registering and operating the Qualified Voters File (QVF) and that accidents do happen when it comes to technology and that the County Clerk consult the Bureau of Elections to determine the next action plan, the Board has fourteen (14) days to complete and certify the local results.

The County Clerk will contact the Bureau of Elections regarding the complaint registered from Dawn Lavanway and will call a meeting of the Board of Canvassers and all those in attendance. The agenda and meeting notice will be posted.

Jan Olach, Chairman, stated that she is confident that this complaint can be addressed and the situation can be resolved. The County Clerk will take the necessary steps to insure that the Bureau is aware of the complaint before this Board and will research with the State to gather information and we will return to canvassing the Townships involved in Commissioner District #7 and Commissioner District #9.

A motion was made by James Nothoff, seconded by Cam Lacy that the Board accept the written complaint filed by Dawn LaVanway to delay the canvassing of Commissioner District #7 and that the Board complete all those Townships not affected by Commissioner District #7 and Commissioner District #9. That the County Clerk have time to contact the Bureau of Elections to research the complaint before this Board and that she schedule the Canvass Board meeting to proceed with the canvass and report on results from the Bureau and that all those in attendance be noticed. At this time to discuss the outcome and to complete all remaining issues of the Antrim County General Election of November 4, 2014. Motion carried - unanimous.

Public left the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

David Peterson, Helena Township Clerk arrived at meeting to observe the canvass process for his township. David Peterson left meeting at 2:30 p.m.

The Board canvassed the returns for the 2014 General Election containing the results of Central Lake Township, Custer Township, Elk Rapids Township, Forest Home Township, Helena Township, Mancelona Township, Milton Township, Star Township and Torch Lake Township.

The Board will continue the canvass of the following Townships at their next meeting: Banks Township, Chestonia Township, Echo Township, Jordan Township, Kearney Township and Warner Township.

The meetings adjourned at 4:00 p.m. on both dates Wednesday, November 5, 2014 and Thursday, November 6, 2014.

Sheryl Guy, County Clerk

