

**TOWN OF ELSMERE
ABSENTEE BALLOT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
DECEMBER 29, 2015
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 5:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER: Ronald Russo called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER FOR THOSE WISHING TO DO SO:

ROLL CALL:

ABSENTEE BALLOT COMMITTEE:

Ronald Russo – Present

Carol Manual– Present

Krista Foulke – Present

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

The Committee will open and count all absentee ballots which have been received for the December 29, 2015 Special 6th District Election.

Town Manager John Giles stated that the Town received 8 requests for absentee ballots, affidavits were mailed to all 8 requestors, however, only 6 requestors returned the affidavits and received ballots. He further stated that in attendance are the four absentee ballot clerks, Mrs. Diana Reed, Mrs. Jackie Moore, Mrs. Cynthia Pfirrmann and Mrs. Linda Sommermann.

Town Manager John Giles asked Absentee Ballot Clerk Mrs. Diana Reed to please turn over all ballot documents which were received.
Mr. Russo stated that he was handed secure envelope number 2012XA containing the absentee ballot documents.

Town Manager John Giles stated that he has two items to discuss regarding the reading of the ballots.

1. Mr. Ronald K. Lewis – Mr. Lewis requested a ballot because he is currently in the State of Florida. He requested the ballot prior to the date that they became available. On the date which ballots were made available an affidavit was mailed to Mr. Lewis at the address provided. On December 22, 2015 Mr. Lewis called to stated that he had sent his affidavit back but had not yet received a ballot. Absentee Ballot Clerk Mrs. Diana Reed contacted Town Manager John Giles with concerns regarding the ability to get Mr. Lewis a ballot in Florida and have it returned in time to be considered. He instructed Mrs. Reed to overnight Mr. Lewis a ballot and a second affidavit with a paid return overnight envelope. On Monday, December 28, 2015 we received Mr. Lewis' ballot and second affidavit, however, he did not initial one of the required boxes on the second affidavit. Later that same day in the regular mail, we received Mr. Lewis' original affidavit which had all of the spaces filled out correctly. Therefore, he believes that although there are two affidavits, Mr. Lewis complied with the requirements and his ballot should be considered.
2. Mr. Richard Norris – Mr. Norris requested a ballot and was sent an affidavit on the date which he requested it. On December 28, 2015 we received a phone call from Mr. Norris at about 1:00pm wanting to know where his ballot was. The Town's Code states that after 12:00pm the day before the election, you can no longer get an absentee ballot. Mr. Norris was told that he had missed his opportunity to request a ballot, who quickly advised that he had already requested the ballot prior to the deadline on December 17, 2015. When Mr. Norris received his affidavit via mail, he filled it out and held it on the impression that one of the candidates had told him he would pick it up and drop it off at Town Hall. Mrs. Cynthia Pfirrmann was sent to his home on December 28, 2015 where she collected his affidavit and he completed his ballot. It is his belief that because Mr. Norris made the request for a ballot prior to the deadline, his ballot should count.

It was a consensus of the committee that both ballots would count.

Counting of the Ballots:

6th District - Ballots

1. Marion Manning
2. Kimberly Drevas
3. Jacob Herold
4. Richard Norris
5. Ronald K. Lewis
6. Margaret Dougherty

District Six Tally:

Randall L. Hedrick – 1
Richard A. Herold – 4
Brian E. Hurst – 1
Claire R. Johnston - 0

At this time the Tally sheets were signed and both the ballots and the tally sheets were secured into the Town Safe in the Administration Office.

ITEMS SUBMITTED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT:

At this time the meeting was adjourned.

These minutes summarize agenda and other issues discussed at this Absentee Ballot Committee Meeting. Votes are recorded accurately. The audio tape(s) of this meeting will be available at Town Hall for a period of two years from the date these minutes are approved. The audio tapes may be reviewed at Town Hall by appointment and in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

**ERIC SCOTT THOMPSON
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF ELECTIONS**