

February 12, 1998

Minutes of the Catawba County Board of Elections

Chairman Albert Yount called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm, with other members David Hood and Bob Johnson in attendance. Also in attendance was Director Flora Belle Abernethy. Hood was welcomed to the Board to fill out the unexpired term of David Abernathy. Yount moved to appoint Hood as Secretary, which was seconded by Johnson and approved unanimously. The minutes from the February 6 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Abernethy presented a list of 1998 goals for the Board to take home and review for the next meeting. Abernethy also reported that the 1997 budget process went fairly well for her, though it was not easy. The Board discussed the fact that the 1996 election was done short-staffed, and that this should change for the 1998 cycle. The pay has been increased for precinct workers to \$125/100/85.

Abernethy reported that a consultant was coming in to help with the unorganized old files, and the process of getting those in order would be a long one. She also reported that all candidates are now subject to the Campaign Reporting Act, and that she had been waiting for information about that from the State Board as well as filing info so that work on the ballot can be completed. The Board agreed that in future cycles having informational meetings for candidates about the CRA would be a good idea. The Board was reminded of the training seminar on March 3-5 in Pinehurst, and was given written information.

The Board discussed the meeting times, which by statute should be at 10:00am unless the Board publishes notice otherwise. Johnson moved, with Yount seconding, that the Board meet at 10:00am in future meetings, and that Abernethy notice and publish these times at least 24 hours prior to each meeting. This motion passed unanimously. Abernethy reported that the Newton newspaper wanted notice about meetings, which she will provide.

There was a brief discussion of the acknowledgment of signature issue, as discussed in the last Board meeting. The Board agreed that problems may occur in such technical areas with a relatively new Director and with so many things going on. It was suggested that two staff people be involved in those matters from now on. Abernethy reported that although there have been comments made by one candidate, no formal protest has been made to the Board concerning any signature of candidates not having been properly acknowledged.

Yount briefly discussed the format and timing of minutes in the past, for the benefit of Hood. He also discussed the lack of security for the Board's past minutes and asked Abernethy to confer with county officials about better security.

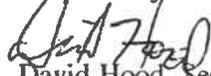
Abernethy reported that efforts at staff cohesion and team spirit continue, and the the Board will receive an updated calendar of important 1998 dates soon. She reported that she called Joyce Rudisill to confirm with Rudisill that since the latter was now a candidate, she was not eligible to interview for the Deputy Director position now open. It was also discussed that Rudisill did not pass the computer test anyway, so that she would have been eliminated from consideration anyway in the three-step process. This process consisted of elimination of unqualified applicants prior to testing, elimination of applicants who failed to score satisfactorily on the test, and selection of the best applicant after the interviewing to take place in executive session.

John Robertson of the Personnel office joined the meeting to explain the interviewing process to be undertaken shortly. It was decided that counsel to the Board should review the letter to be sent to those applicants failing the test. Hood suggested that Debra Nass should not be counsel to the Board because she is a current candidate for judge. Carolyn Crouch will review the letter in question, and Hood will discuss switching staff attorneys with the County Attorney.

Yount reported that Ed Readling had said that each of the party chairs should receive two free voter printouts. The Board agreed that this has been standard practice, and should continue. Each chair is also to receive a copy of the minutes of each meeting.

Yount then moved that the Board go into executive session to deal with personnel issues, which was seconded by Johnson and approved. At the conclusion of the executive session, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


David Hood, Secretary

April 7, 1998

Minutes of the Catawba County Board of Elections

Chairman Albert Yount called the meeting to order at 8:10 am. Also in attendance were members David Hood and Bob Johnson. Director Flora Belle Abernethy was also in attendance. The minutes from the February 12 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Three absentee applications were reviewed. One of these, Terry Armstrong, had no party affiliation and thus could choose a primary to participate in. She was to be called to make this determination. Yount moved to approve the applications, seconded by Johnson. The motion carried unanimously.

On the issue of modems at election sites, these have been installed but telephone lines are not yet finalized. The issue of a continuing problem at East Maiden where the modem has had technical problems was again discussed, and efforts continue to resolve the problem.

Abernethy reported that the recent workshop attended by some of the staff was well worth it. She also said she had tested a ballot on the machine, which read it correctly.

There was some discussion of reviving an "orange card" approach for absentee ballots, which was used by the Democrats at one point. The idea was to have a postcard-sized document with all the necessary information. This will be looked in to.

One set of evaluations from the February interviews was not signed -this was determined to be Yount's.

The board discussed the issue of excessive rent being charged by Mountain Grove Baptist. Abernethy had called last year when the rent had gone up to \$50, now they want \$75. The average rent at non-public buildings appear to be about \$35. There was no real alternative this year, but the nearby school and other sites will be considered next time. Yount will also call the pastor to express the Board's concerns.

Abernethy reported that a teacher at Grace Church wanted to use the Board's dedicated line there during the year. This is OK as long as the teacher understands that we need it the day of elections and the day before.

The statewide system called SEIMS has been signed but the program is still slow coming down. There are lots of kinks to be worked out statewide.

April 14, 1998

Minutes of Catawba County Board of Elections

Secretary David Hood called the meeting to order. Bob Johnson, Board member, and Flora Belle Abernethy, Director, were present. In the absence of Chairman Albert Yount, Johnson presiding over the meeting.

The first item of business was to approve several absentee ballot applications. Johnson moved to approve, with Hood seconding. It was noted that some of these folks were voting at the Board offices, with this election being the first one for that.

Abernethy reported that all the new precinct maps were printed, and that tubes were being ordered for them.

The polling place has to be moved from Balls Creek Elementary to another building in that precinct due to construction, per the principal. The Lions Club building nearby is available, with only a telephone line needing to be run in there. Johnson moved to shift the polling place to the Lions Club, seconded by Hood. Abernethy will send out a press release on this.

There was discussion about the time for counting of absentee ballots. The law allows between 2 and 5, and we usually do it at 5. Abernethy reported that a tally was being kept of voters using the one-stop method.

Abernethy also reported that she was working with the two party chairs to fill out precinct worker positions. Also, Tom Lundy has agreed to give us help to get machines out to their destinations, if necessary.

Finally, Abernethy stated she had been working on a draft of a personnel policy regarding confidentiality in the office, as requested by the Board at the last meeting. Further work on this will be done. Also, it appears that the County itself has a policy similar to this.

Johnson moved to adjourn, with Hood seconding.

Respectfully submitted,

David Hood, Secretary

The meeting with the County Manager regarding the need for more help in the elections office went well. It makes sense to wait until we all see how the SEIMS effects the workload before deciding about hires. SEIMS will maybe be delayed in use until after November.

A report was made on the issue of one-stop voting from the Board office. Special permission was obtained to get machine at Board office after a few alterations are made. Yount moved to go forward with this, seconded by Johnson and passed unanimously.

Abernethy showed the board an example of the new precinct maps. Each precinct will have its own map, multi-colored and very clearly showing all the areas in the precinct.

There was a short discussion about the recent decision on redistricting for congressional candidates. The State Board has submitted an affidavit in support of Easley's motion for a stay of the order to Rehnquist.

Yount then moved that the Board go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter, and this was seconded by Johnson and passed unanimously. The results of the session were to have Abernethy consult with the personnel office regarding drafting a policy for the handling of complaints about office procedures to be followed by employees. No action was taken on the specific issue discussed in the session.

Finally, a brief discussion ensued regarding write-in candidacies for non-partisan races. The Board is looking in to this after a couple of phone calls on the subject with respect to the Superior Court Judge race.

Yount then moved for adjournment, which was seconded by Hood and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Hood, Secretary

April 21, 1998

The Catawba County Board of Elections met April 21, 1998 at 8:00 am with Chairman Albert Yount, Secretary David Hood, member Robert Johnson and Director Flora Belle Abernethy attending.

The following absentee ballots were approved:

C - 18	C - 20
C - 19	C - 16

The following One-Stop applications were approved:

OS - 8	OS - 17	OS - 12	OS - 10
OS - 7	OS - 9	OS - 13	
OS - 5	OS - 18	OS - 6	
OS - 14	OS - 4	OS - 16	
OS - 15	OS - 3	OS - 11	

Organization and staffing of precincts staffing were discussed.

Upon the suggestion of Mr. Yount, a personnel policy dealing with the Board of Elections is in the process of being written by the director.

Mr. Yount suggested that publicity needs to be disseminated on the Congressional Primary. According to reports, the primary appears to be scheduled for September 15.

The Board of Elections meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 5 will be re-advertised and rescheduled for April 28 at 3:00 pm.

Plans were discussed for the instructional meeting. Mrs. Abernethy reported the new Instructional Booklet will be updated.

Respectfully submitted,

Flora Belle Abernethy, Director
(Served as secretary)

April 14, 1998

The Catawba County Board of Elections met April 14, 1998 at 8:00 am with Chairman Albert M. Yount, Secretary David Hood and member Robert Johnson attending.

Chairman Yount called the meeting to order.

The following applications were approved:

C - 13

C - 11

C - 14

C - 10

C - 9

C - 15

C - 12

The following One-Stop applications were approved:

OS - 1

OS - 2

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Flora Belle Abernethy, Director

5/1/98 Minutes of Catawba County Board of Elections

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Albert Yount. Absentee requests were approved by motion of Bob Johnson and second by Yount.

Director Flora Belle Abernethy reported that every modem with problems will be checked today in anticipation of the coming election. Also, volunteers have come forward to fill all the slots available at each precinct. There will still be some switching around between precincts, but we have enough workers.

Yount indicated that the Board should recognize long-time precinct workers, perhaps those with 10, 15 and 20 years service. Perhaps this could be worked in with the instructional meeting, and a certificate given to each.

The Board decided to count absentee ballots at 5:00 on election day.

There was a discussion about ways to recognize precincts that have good turnout. A past Chairman put info in the paper about the precincts with the highest percentage turnout, highest number of voters, etc. Yount said he would prepare a similar press release this year.

There was a discussion about the possible division of certain of the precincts. This is due to the growth seen in the northeast section of Hickory, among other places.

The Board members all agreed that they, together with the Director and staff if possible, should visit precincts on Election Day.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Yount.

Respectfully submitted,

David Hood, Secretary

April 28, 1998

The Catawba Board of Elections met with two members attending: Chairman Albert Yount and Robert Johnson. Chairman Yount called the meeting to order.

The following absentee applications were approved: .

C - 28 C - 32

C - 33 C - 29

C - 30

The following One-Stop applications were approved:

OS - 28 OS - 29

OS - 33 OS - 30

OS - 32

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Flora Belle Abernethy, Director
(Served in the absence of Secretary David Hood)

April 27, 1998

The Catawba County Board of Elections met with two members approving absentee and One-Stop applications: Secretary David Hood and member Robert Johnson.

The following absentee applications were approved:

C - 24

The following One-Stop applications were approved:

OS - 27

OS - 26

OS - 24

OS - 25

Respectfully submitted,

Flora Belle Abernethy, Director
(For David Hood, Secretary)

April 24, 1998

The Catawba County Board of Elections met April 24 , 1998 at 8:00 am. Chairman Albert Yount, Secretary David Hood, member Robert Johnson and Director Flora Belle Abernethy attending.

Chairman Yount called the meeting to order.

Motion to accept minutes (Johnson, Hood) was made and passed..

The following absentee ballots were approved:

C - 23

The following One-Stop applications were approved:

OS - 22

OS - 20

OS - 19

OS - 23

OS - 21

A draft of the Personnel Policy was received and will be reviewed by the Board before adoption.

Chairman Yount instructed the Director to write a letter informing Mary Ellen Richard in Precinct 9 she will not be qualified to serve as a precinct official in the November election due to the candidacy of her sister.

Mrs. Abernethy discussed the possibility of using paper ballots and ballot boxes rather than the tabulators if we are to have a Congressional Primary in September.

Respectfully submitted,

Flora Belle Abernethy, Director
(Served as secretary)

5/4/98 Minutes of Catawba County Board of Elections

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Yount. Absentee ballots #66-78 were approved upon the motion of Johnson, seconded by Hood. Director Abernethy reported that the screens upstairs for the showing of election results had been checked, with problems now OK. It apparently will cost \$6000 to fix problems entirely and to make upgrades wanted for the future. This is still being looked into.

Modem problems were discussed regarding St Stephens Elementary and Maiden. Despite much effort at Maiden, there are still problems there.

The Board decided to deal with any issues arising out of the 12th U.S. House District controversy after the May 5 election season is over.

There was a discussion about the arrangement with the municipalities regarding running their elections. An idea with support in the past would be to charge a flat fee per registered voter rather than the current system. Ed Robinette had offered to work on this some time ago, but there is still no real progress. Yount suggested that perhaps County personnel could work on this.

Hood, Johnson and Abernethy commented favorably on the fact that Yount was to be recognized for 22 years of service at the Commissioners meeting. The meeting was then adjourned by Chairman Yount.

Respectfully submitted,

David Hood, Secretary

5/5/98 Minutes of Catawba County Board of Elections

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Yount. The first order of business was to open the absentee ballots and feed them into the machine. One ballot would not go and was tabulated by hand. The absentee results were tabulated and reported as required.

Yount reported that he would send a letter to Mary Ellen Richard to tell her she cannot be a worker for the rest of this election season.

There was discussion about Steve Boyd, who had been seen voting at Viewmont Elementary earlier in the day though members of the Board know that he lives in Alexander County. The Board agreed that Yount would contact Boyd and otherwise look into the matter.

The meeting was adjourned by Yount.

Respectfully submitted,

David Hood, Secretary

5/8/98 Minutes of Catawba County Board of Elections

Chairman Albert Yount called the meeting to order.

Yount reported that he called Steve Boyd after talking to the State Board. Boyd admitted living in Alexander County, and said he had always voted in Hickory even after moving across the river and had never changed his registration. Boyd said he would immediately change his registration. Hood agreed to rough out a letter to Steve Boyd and wife requiring them to change registration within 30 days of the letter. This will discussed at the next meeting.

It was decided by the Board to put in the newspaper a release congratulating precincts with the highest total voter turnout, both by raw number and percentage.

The Board completed its canvass of the results by dealing with provisional ballots. The first four on the list were denied by motion of Johnson, seconded by Hood. The Board by the same vote agreed to accept the ballot of John Ingle, though staff had suggested rejection. The remaining were accepted by motion of Hood, seconded by Johnson.

Modem problems were discussed. The technical folks think the Maiden line hung up the whole modem system on election night. The Maiden problem may be the fact that it has only one line. Next time there will be more lines. Even with the modem problems there were 36 precincts in by 8:29 pm. Oakland Heights was the last precinct in, and there seemed to be no real reason for the delay there. It was decided that the technical people may go out and show the process again to some of the Chief Judges.

Director Abernethy will write the Chief Judges a letter thanking them for their service and asking for comments and suggestions.

Abernethy reported that North Newton church has asked us to move. Possible sites were discussed, including the new fire station.

Yount reported that a letter was doing out to Mary Ellen Richard as discussed in the last meeting.

There was discussion about possible uses of the capital outlay budget. These include the purchase of a big printer, updates to two computers, and perhaps another small printer. Abernethy noted that the staff continue to better their computer skills.

ITC will look into the quality of the television screens upstairs, as there were some visibility problems on election night. The Board agreed to look into the possibility of posting the results by precinct as Robert Eades and several others had requested as a source of information for candidates and others in attendance on election night.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Yount.

Respectfully submitted,

David Hood, Secretary

6/24/98 Minutes of Catawba County Board of Elections

Chairman Albert Yount called the meeting to order.

The Federal Court decision this week means that the primary for the 10th District seat can go on in September. There was discussion about the possibility of doing that primary with paper ballots because it would be easier. Yount asked if that meant the race had to be done by paper ballot in November as well given the rule that the primary and general elections be conducted in the same manner. Director Abernethy will seek advice on this point from the State Board of Elections and/or the Attorney General before the Board makes a decision on this issue.

Next there was a discussion of the instructional meeting for precinct workers for the November election. Abernethy proposed that the meeting always be held on the Tuesday one week before election day so that the meeting room can be reserved further in advance. This was agreeable to the Board. Thus, the next instructional meeting was set for October 27. Abernethy suggested that perhaps the most experienced workers could attend a shorter session. Chairman Yount delegated Abernethy to offer training herself to the more experienced workers in lieu of their appearance at the general instructional meeting. Abernethy will report back to the board on how that went. The Board agreed for now to keep the two instructional meetings at 4:00 and 6:00 for the rest of the workers.

Abernethy reported that the N. Newton precinct voting place has now been officially switched to the fire station. She will do the necessary notices and/or press releases to alert the community of the change. Also, there was discussion about moving the voting place from Startown School to St. Paul UCC in that precinct - Abernethy will check into this possibility.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Yount during the midst of a reception to honor his many years of service to the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

David Hood, Secretary

MINUTES OF
CATAWBA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
August 25, 1998

Albert M. Yount called the meeting to order. The first item of business was Steve Boyd, about whom we have information that he no longer lives in the county. Yount will call Boyd to tell him that the Board requires an answer to our inquiry.

There was discussion about the \$75.00 charge from Mountain Grove Baptist. It was decided to try to find somewhere else for the next election, although Mountain View School is probably not a good alternative.

Flora Belle Abernethy reports that some of the old records have been purged, with many old useless files thrown away for space reasons. Certain items were kept that had historical value.

The Board approved a resolution to change certain precinct voting locations. Abernethy reported that the precinct questionnaire generated some good comments and suggestions.

Abernethy reported that some kind of temporary lighting is required at the Springs box.

There was some discussion about the availability of elections info on the Internet. No further action was taken.

The approved absentee list was signed.

Abernethy reported that she was trying to set new rates for municipal elections, possibly including a per-voter charge. She will report back to the Board on this after the November election.

The staff tried to get a proposed ballot approved by the State Board, but were told that it was too early to do that given various issues still underway in the Legislature and other things.

The Board agreed not to submit any recommendations to the County Commissioners in response to their request to various county organizations for a list of goals or objectives. It was

decided that the Board does not need to get into the business of making legislative recommendations.

There was a short discussion of coming instructional meetings. Yount said he would be there for the abbreviated session for the most experienced precinct workers. It was decided that Abernethy would send one letter to all workers regarding instructional meetings.

The final item of business was a decision to get a new lock for the box in which the Minutes are kept. There need to be two keys made so that the President and Secretary each have one.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Hood, Secretary

MINUTES OF
CATAWBA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
September 17, 1998

Albert Yount and David Hood met for the purpose of approving the language in a resolution to change the voting locations at Viewmont 1 and Long View South. Both locations will now be at churches rather than elementary schools. The Board also approved the language of a press release regarding these changes.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Hood, Secretary

MINUTES OF
CATAWBA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
September 22, 1998

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chairman Bob Johnson. Yount was not present. First item of business was Abernethy's report that the Voter News Service would be conducting exit polling at certain Catawba County precincts. The Board agreed to cooperate in any way possible with this service. Abernethy reported that Mountain Grove Baptist Church was insisting on \$75.00, and wanted it up front. The Board agreed to continue to look for an alternative before the next election season.

There was a discussion about whether the Board wanted to get a precinct manual to each precinct chair. No action was taken.

Abernethy reported that instructional meetings would be at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. as in past years. The dates will be October 20 and October 27.

Abernethy brought up an issue regarding publishing in the newspaper. There is sometimes a problem distinguishing between press releases and notices. The Board determined that a press release does not involve the payment of money to the newspaper, although there is no guarantee of the release being published. On the other hand, a notice or resolution which needs to be published will have to be paid for by the Board.

The following absentee applications were approved: C-9, C-12, C-13, C-14, C-38, and C-39.

Invitations are going out to candidates, party chairs and others regarding an October 1 informational meeting. Staff attorney Debra Bechtel will be there, along with most of the staff and Board members.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Hood, Secretary

MINUTES OF
CATAWBA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
September 29, 1998

Chairman Yount called the meeting to order. There was discussion about two problems with published information. One was a clerical error in which a certain press release said that the registration deadline was October 29, though the deadline was actually October 9. The Board agreed to try to avoid clerical errors in the future. Clearly the deadline for registration is 25 days prior to the election. The other issue that was brought up was not an error, it was simply an item that complied with state deadlines.

The following absentee ballot applications were approved: C-40 through C-46.

The board decided not to change the times for the instructional meetings, but will keep them at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Abernethy reported that a letter had been received from the Department of Transportation regarding signs in the DOT right-of-way. The DOT will remove the signs where they need to mow or where the signs are in the line of sight, and will keep the signs at DOT headquarters. The Board agreed to distribute this information at the October 1 informational meeting. We also have received a letter from the City of Newton regarding signs.

Regarding Steve Boyd, he told Chairman Yount about two weeks ago that he intends to move back to Hickory and therefor claims to be domiciled in Hickory. Since there is no challenge from any voter, the Board decided to table the issue and revisit it later if there is a challenge to Boyd as a legitimate voter in Catawba County.

Abernethy reported that the proposed ballot was sent to Raleigh. The State Board made significant changes although our Board used the 1994 ballot as a guide. We may have a sample ballot ready by the October 1 meeting copied onto yellow paper.

Jim Pratt from the ABC Board has talked to staff about a particular candidate sign that he took down from the right-of-way in front of the ABC store. He wanted to know what to do when the candidate apparently came into the office and was angry. It was decided to tell him that the Board does not see that he did anything wrong, and that he may not be able to avoid disputes with candidates if they put their signs in the wrong place.

There was some discussion among Board members regarding other polling places which may have safety issues or other issues requiring a change of voting site. Action will be taken on this prior to the next election.

There was discussion about the possibility of a constitutional amendment regarding session length which is still pending in Raleigh. If it passes, we may have to use paper ballots for that particular issue.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Hood, Secretary

BOARD OF ELECTIONS
OCTOBER 6, 1998

The Catawba County Board of Elections met on October 6, 1998 with Chairperson Albert M. Yount presiding. Board member Robert Johnson attended. Secretary David Hood called and because of an emergency was unable to attend until later. Due to a limited agenda, with only the applications for ballots to be approved, it was decided it would not be of any real benefit for him to make the effort to come.

Applications numbering C-49 through C-65 were approved (Johnson, Yount).

Director Flora Belle Abernethy reported officials would be needed in Precinct # 23 Mountain View 1 and St Stephens 1 # 28.

She also mentioned Caldwell County had called seeking information on our Kardveyor. They were informed at some point in the near future we may be interested in selling ours due to the lack of space which would require us to buy a larger size.

Discussion followed concerning the probable delay of getting the ballots back from the printer. Mrs. Abernethy stated many counties were in this same predicament due to the legislature being in session so long and the late passage of the bond referenda. Our ballots were sent to Raleigh in July, but could not be approved at this early date due to the Congressional Primary and one other office which had to be filled. Staff is instructing those who inquire about One-Stop voting to please call before coming to the office.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Flora Belle Abernethy, acting Secretary in the absence of Mr. Hood

MINUTES OF
CATAWBA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
October 9, 1998

Acting Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order. Yount was not in attendance. The following absentee applications were approved: C-67 through C-69.

There was discussion about the instructional meetings coming up on October 20 at 6 p.m., October 22 at 6 p.m., October 27 at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Hood will do precinct transfer, while Johnson will talk about provisional ballots.

Caldwell County's Board called yesterday regarding the cardveyer. Abernethy said Caldwell County might be able to buy ours, which would allow Catawba County to buy much bigger machine, given the fact that our current cardveyer is close to capacity now. This will be an issue to be looked into after the election.

Voter News Service has indicated the three specific precincts they want to do exit polls: Balls Creek, St. Stephens 2, and North Newton.

There was discussion about the ballots not being here next week. Other counties are in the same situation. Our last final proofing was yesterday. We could have ballots by the end of the week. The Board agreed to respond to voters or others as they inquired about ballots by saying that we expected them soon.

Abernethy reported that there will be a mock election at Newton-Conover High School, and that she was excited about that.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Hood, Secretary

MINUTES OF
CATAWBA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
October 13, 1998

Acting Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order. Yount was not present. The following absentee applications were approved: C-72 through C-89.

We still do not have our ballots. The printer in Fayetteville said they were not ready. They may be in by the end of the week. There is nothing more to be done except to move as quickly as possible when the ballots do come in.

Staff attorney and Abernethy have conferred and agree that the ITC cannot charge candidates or others the way they are doing for certain charges. The statutory provision is fairly clear about what must be charged. There may be some rebates due to certain candidates from charges incurred in 1998. Abernethy will confer with ITC about this.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Hood, Secretary

MINUTES OF
CATAWBA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
October 16, 1998

Chairman Yount called the meeting to order. The following absentee applications were approved: C-90 through C-98, C-107, C-108, C-158 and 12 applications not yet assigned a number.

A voter has contacted the Board whose property straddles the Burke/Catawba County lines. The voter has registered and voted in Catawba, but there is some concern that he might actually reside in Burke. After looking at the tax map information, the Board agrees that he appears to be in Catawba County and can vote in this election pending further investigation.

Abernethy reported that she still needs precinct workers at Oxford, one of the St. Stephens boxes, and two at Mountain View.

Abernethy reported that the technical folks say that specific precinct information cannot be put on the electronic board. There may be something to be done in the future, but there is no technical way to do it with the current set up. She also reported that technicians are going to check all boxes where we had trouble during the primary, particularly East Maiden.

There was Board discussion about not yet having ballots. We do know that there are others, including Lincoln County, who do not yet have their ballots. The staff did submit a proposed ballot in July which was not approved by the state. No further action was taken.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Hood, Secretary

MINUTES OF
CATAWBA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
October 20, 1998

Chairman Yount called the meeting to order. The following absentee applications were approved: C-172 through C-175, C-210 through C-216, C-239 through C-241, C-246 and five unnumbered applications. One stop applications were also approved: OS-1 through OS-20. There was some discussion about the instructional meeting this afternoon at 6 p.m.

Abernethy reported that there has been some difficulty in recruiting precinct workers in Mountain View. Right now there are two Republicans and one unaffiliated. The Board agreed to try to get a Democrat, perhaps from outside the precinct, to go to Mountain View. She also reported that there is a need at Oxford. Republican Jeff Kaylor will serve as chief judge. The Board agreed that Roger Isaacs should be called to try to recruit for the missing position. Abernethy further reported that one more Republican was needed at a St. Stephens box, and that the precinct officials at both Springs and South Newton have requested to split their registration books assuming they can get the extra personnel.

The Board approved a recommendation to accept the proposed precinct workers, and to authorize Abernethy to fill the remaining vacancies.

The Board agreed to put advertisements in the Observer News Enterprise and Hickory Daily Record regarding the change of precinct locations at Startown and Viewmont 1.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Hood, Secretary

MINUTES OF
CATAWBA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
October 23, 1998

Acting Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order. Yount was not present. The following absentee applications were approved: C-365 through C-373, C-513 through C-517. One stop applications were also approved: OC-21 through OS-105.

The Board is getting in blue cards mailed without any reasons checked for requesting an absentee ballot. The Board agreed to try to contact the persons involved and get a reason recognizing the statute. The Board agreed that the issue was not clear, but that where there was no reason checked and contact could not be made the Board should send the card back to the voter and tell them to either come in person or send the request back with a reason. There may not be time to call everyone. The Board approved a press release on the subject of absentee requests, emphasizing that there must be a statutorily accepted reason in order to receive an absentee ballot.

The Board discussed the fact that the ballots supply is running very short. We are trying to get the printer to send us more. The extraordinary number of absentee ballot requests is part of the problem here.

Given the shortage of ballots when certain voters have come to the office to apply for an absentee ballot, the Board authorized Abernethy to deliver ballots to two particular voters who came to the office twice when we were out of that particular style of ballot. The Board also authorized Abernethy to deliver other ballots during the next few days prior to full receipt of the ballots if there are other shortages in particular styles when voters come to the office.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Hood, Secretary

MINUTES OF
CATAWBA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
October 26, 1998

Acting Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order. Yount was not present. The following absentee applications were approved: C-641 through C-646, C-653 through C-654, C-678, C-694 through C-695, C-791 through C-795. One stop applications were also approved: OS-106 through OS-141A .

Abernethy reported that all precinct workers have now been recruited. She also reported on the on-going ballot shortage. The ballots did not come in last week as promised. The printer said something happened to the ballots, so they must be re-run. We may meet the printer half way in order to get the ballots. The Board agreed to make Abernethy responsible for getting the ballots from the printer as quickly as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Hood, Secretary

MINUTES OF
CATAWBA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
October 27, 1998

Chairman Yount called the meeting to order. The following absentee applications were approved: C-842, C-843, C-813, C-850 through C-852. One stop applications were also approved: OS-142 through OS-166, including 148A and 155A. Abernethy reported that we were receiving more ballots today, and got more of certain styles last night.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Hood, Secretary

MINUTES OF
CATAWBA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
October 28, 1998

Chairman Yount called the meeting to order. The following one stop applications were approved: OS-167 through OS-208, and OS-212. There was discussion about the ballot situation having vastly improved.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Hood, Secretary

MINUTES OF
CATAWBA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
October 30, 1998

Chairman Yount called the meeting to order. The following one stop applications were approved: OS-215 through OS-283, including 255A and 272A. Director Abernethy reported that two Mock Elections were being put on by the State Board, one for Senate and Congressional elections and one for Sheriff at the middle schools. There is a desire to expand into every high school.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Hood, Secretary

MINUTES OF
CATAWBA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
November 2, 1998

Chairman Yount called the meeting to order. The following one stop applications were approved: OS-284 through OS-357. The Board noted that it has a stack of unapproved absentee requests that were filed too late, were duplicative, or were for unregistered voters. The Board also noted that the lawsuit previously filed over the absentee ballot application issue has been dropped for now.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Hood, Secretary

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MINUTES OF
CATAWBA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
November 3, 1998

Chairman Yount called the meeting to order. Yount reported that John Cline had been sworn in as Clerk at St. Stephens #1. Yount further reported that the Precinct Chairman at W. Newton had called to report candidate Joyce Rudisill being in the voting enclosure, and that she was responding to a question about crossover voting that had been posed by a voter to a precinct worker. Although the Board responded to the situation, Rudisill was no longer there. Another item involved the absentee ballots that had come in too late. Hood moved, seconded by Johnson that no late absentee ballots would be counted, regardless of the reason. This motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Hood, Secretary