



CORPORATION OF HARPERS FERRY

Board of Canvassers

MINUTES

Special Meeting

Monday, 17 June 2019

7:00 p.m.

Town Hall • 1000 Washington Street, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia 25425

Called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Bishop. The Mayor announced that the Town Council, serving in its capacity as the Board of Canvassers, was to certify the results of the 11 June 2019 Harpers Ferry municipal elections.

Member	Title	Status
Wayne Bishop	Mayor	Present
Kevin Carden	Recorder	Present
Barbara Humes	Councilmember	Present
Hardwick S. Johnson, Jr.	Councilmember	Present
Charlotte Thompson	Councilmember	Present
Ed Wheeless	Councilmember	Present
Midge Flinn Yost	Councilmember	Present

The Mayor announced that the Board of Canvassers would be using the 2019 Guide to Best Practices for Municipal Canvass provided by the WV Secretary of State's office and the canvass procedures that the Recorder had emailed to the Board of Canvassers prior to this meeting.

Motion	Motion to set bond for ballot recount at \$175.00.
Motion by	Midge Flinn Yost
Second	Charlotte Thompson
Result	MOTION APPROVED

Recorder Kevin Carden opened the ballot box with a key and presented several envelopes with early and general election day ballots, absentee ballots, and provisional ballots, as well as a tally sheet and certified results from the election day counting board. The envelopes were opened and acknowledged by those present.

Ballots counted	167 (including 11 absentees)
Provisional ballots	6
Ballots spoiled	1

Ballots uncounted	1 (absentee ballot received after general election day)
Ballots unused	164
Total ballots	339

The certified count taken after polls closed on 11 June showed the following voting results:

For Mayor	Chris Craig	77
	Wayne Bishop	91
For Recorder	Myles Morse	76
	Kevin Carden	91
For Council	Debbie McGee	81
	Christian Pechuekonis	84
	Nancy Singleton Case	82
	Midge Flinn Yost	80
	Barbara Humes	90
	Leah Howell	15
	Jay Premack	87
	Hardy Johnson	84
Charlotte Thompson	83	

One absentee ballot was received after 11 June, but before the date the Board of Canvassers met. The envelope was postmarked before 11 June, so this ballot was accepted.

Six provisional ballots were received in the large outer provisional ballot envelope. Each of the provisional ballots remained sealed in their respective inner envelopes. The Recorder noted that there was one ballot that should have been provisional but was mistakenly marked as spoiled by poll workers and placed in a spoiled ballot envelope. Because it was placed in the spoiled ballot envelope, it will be recorded as a spoiled ballot.

Discussion regarding the six provisional ballots ensued. Recorder Carden stated that these individuals were instructed to vote provisional ballots when they came to vote because their names were not listed in the poll book. He said that all were residents of Harpers Ferry. He noted that four of the provisional ballots were cast by residents who were registered as residing on "West Washington Street", which placed them in Bolivar's precinct instead of Harpers Ferry's. Mr Carden stated he had spoken to the County's Deputy Clerk for Voter Registration, Nikki Painter, regarding these registrations (although nothing was presented in writing to the Board of Canvassers to substantiate these registration issues). It was his

understanding that these residents’ registrations have since been corrected, but he did not know exactly when. (Mr Carden said he was previously aware of another Harpers Ferry voter who was registered on West Washington Street, but he had that voter’s registration corrected when he went to pick up the poll book.) No further information was provided about the fifth and sixth provisional ballots. Barbara Humes asked if these individuals had been given change of address forms, but Mr Carden did not know.

The Recorder noted that it was at the Board of Canvassers’ discretion whether or not to accept the provisional ballots, but that as a general rule, if it is known “that a voter resides in Harpers Ferry but their registration may have been incorrect at the time they voted, we are to accept their ballot.” He said that the four Washington Street voters were registered, but their registrations were incorrect at the time the poll book was printed. He said the US Postal Service assigns a “West Washington Street” address to these residents, but according to the Jefferson County GIS, it should be just “Washington Street”; the voter registration office is obliged to follow the County’s address records. If they register as “West Washington Street”, as they were instructed by the USPS, then they are incorrectly listed as residents of Bolivar. According to the County’s records, there is a “West Washington Street”, but it is in Bolivar; these new residents of Harpers Ferry would not likely have known that they were incorrectly registered until they went to vote. Mr Carden also stated that Ms Painter told him, and he had read it himself in WV Code, that if persons were registered in Jefferson County on election day and lived in Harpers Ferry before that day, the Board of Canvassers is supposed to accept their provisional ballots. (Nothing was provided to the Board of Canvassers in writing to substantiate this.)

Charlotte Thompson, Mrs Humes, and Hardy Johnson pointed out that the 2019 Best Practices Guide for Municipal Canvass provided by the West Virginia Secretary of State’s Office advises against counting provisional ballots from voters who are not registered within the municipality.

Mr Carden and Ed Wheelless both asked that the provisional ballots be reviewed individually for acceptance and counting.

After further discussion, a vote was taken to reject the provisional ballots.

Motion	Motion to reject all the provisional ballots.
Motion by	Barbara Humes
Second	Charlotte Thompson
YES	Four votes
NO	Two votes
Result	MOTION APPROVED

The final tallies, including the absentee ballot received after the 11th of June, are as follows:

For Mayor	Chris Craig	77
	Wayne Bishop	92*
For Recorder	Myles Morse	77
	Kevin Carden	91*
For Council	Debbie McGee	81
	Christian Pechuekonis	84*
	Nancy Singleton Case	82
	Midge Flinn Yost	81
	Barbara Humes	91*
	Leah Howell	15
	Jay Premack	87*
Hardy Johnson	85*	
	Charlotte Thompson	84*

These results were read aloud by the Recorder.

Motion	Motion to accept the final tallies, including the additional absentee ballot received after the 11 th of June.
Motion by	Charlotte Thompson
Second	Hardy Johnson
YES	Four votes
NO	Two votes
Result	MOTION APPROVED

Recorder Carden announced that the final tallies announced above would be certified within 48 hours of the time this meeting adjourns if no request for a recount of the ballots is received before then.

Motion to adjourn by Barbara Humes, second by Ed Wheelless. Meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

The above minutes are true and correct, as approved.

Mayor: _____ Date: _____

Recorder: _____ Date: _____