

County Canvassers Minutes January 16, 2008

The Gladwin County Board of Canvassers met at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, January 16, 2008 to canvass votes cast at the Presidential Primary Election on January 15, 2008.

Present were members Mary Offenbocker, Judy Ford, Bob Schafer, Harold Cripe and Clerk Laura Flach.

Explanation was given by Clerk Laura Flach on the various problems encounters on Election Day – specifically with Billings Township. Ms. Flach related that there was a problem with the ballot count as the poll book showed 364 votes but in tally only 319 ballots had been counted – the others while included in the ballot totals had not been counted as to candidate votes.

Discussion was also had on the AV ballot issues – it had been discovered that the Township Clerk had not used approved “AV envelopes” for mailing of AV ballots, had not enclosed approved envelopes for return of AV ballots, had kept no record of the AV applications received, nor any record of the AV ballots that were sent out. Discussion was also had on problems encountered with the tabulator “throat” not being adjusted (poll book noted at 7:13 a.m. that the tabulator had not been adjusted for the smaller ballots – yet at 4:30 p.m. when Laura Brandon arrived to assist – it still was not adjusted and she corrected the situation). Ms. Flach did note that these irregularities would be addressed by the Bureau of Elections with Ms. Frye.

Canvassers proceeded to canvas all precincts except Billings and found all to be in order.

It was determined that a “re-tabulation” would be required to “iron” out ballot issues in Billings. The “re-tabulation” was scheduled for Thursday, January 17, 2008 at 1 p.m. and would be held in the Circuit Courtroom. Clerk Laura Flach was instructed to contact Billings precinct inspectors (*at least 2- each of different party affiliation*) as well as Clerk Linda Frye. Ms. Frye was to be instructed to bring the tabulator, all ballots and supplies as well as the canvass ballot bag containing AV ballots processed and sealed on Election night by Chief Deputy Clerk Laura Brandon (*Ms. Brandon had been sworn in to handle processing of AV ballots as “challenged” ballots based on directions from Bureau of Elections*)

The canvass board then recessed at 3:45 p.m. until 1 p.m. on Thursday, January 17, 2008