



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 17, 2017 – 5:33 PM

Preliminary Hearing for Voter Challenge

The Rockingham County Board of Elections met Tuesday, October 17, 2017, at 5:33 pm in the Board of Elections Board Room.

Board Members Present: Toni K. Reece, Chair; Velma Loy, Secretary; and Royce Richardson, Member

Staff Members Present: Tina Cardwell, Director; and Keli Watkins, Senior Deputy Director

Other Persons Present: Michael Hutchinson, Jeff Parris, John Dishmon, Cindy Adams, and local media

ITEM #1 – PRELIMINARY HEARING CALLED TO ORDER

The Preliminary Hearing was called to order at 5:33 pm by Chair Reece. The Board Chair asked Director Cardwell to explain the process for a Preliminary Hearing of a Voter Challenge. Director Cardwell presented to the Board: copies of the challenge Form, Copies of evidence presented when the Challenge was made, copies of notice letters and enclosures sent to the Challenger and the Voter being challenged.

ITEM #2 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Richardson made the motion, seconded by Secretary Loy, and the vote was unanimous to approve the Agenda for this meeting.

ITEM #3 – PRELIMINARY HEARING

Chair Reece issued the Oath to Steve Michael Hutchinson. The Chair called on Mr. Hutchinson to present evidence that Mr. Paul Dishmon does not live where he is registered to vote.

Mr. Hutchinson's Testimony: This all started when I had a meeting with the City Manager of Eden. I received an unbelievable amount of information and part of that information was that Mr. Paul Dishmon Jr. was not living inside the City Limits of Eden, but was registered to vote at 515 Church St. I did a little bit of research myself and I actually looked up where I was told he lives, you all have a copy of that, the GIS screenshot, and a copy showing where he's registered to vote. I looked a little bit further. I have a social media page where I asked these questions and without saying anything. Read this comment right here. That citizen said that 515 Church St. is his mom and dad's house. I was also told that Mr. Dishmon lives with Cynthia Adams at 184 Landfill Rd. Here is her voter registration and that house is owned by Paul Dishmon. Here

is a picture at 8:30 Sunday morning of Cindy's car and Paul Dishmon's truck sitting at 184 Landfill Rd. outside the City Limits. The last picture is hard to see. That is actually 515 Church St. at around 8 o'clock pm Sunday evening. Neither one of those vehicles sitting in the driveway was at the other house. That is all I have. I was just told by numerous people that Mr. Dishmon lived on Landfill Rd. outside the City Limits and I guess it is 2017 and 50 year old men still live with mom and dad; that could be possible.

Chair Reece asked Mr. Hutchinson if he had any other evidence to provide. He did not.

The Board discussed the Challenge, evidence and testimony given by Mr. Hutchinson. Chair Reece read aloud G.S. 163-57(3) regarding residence defined for registration and voting. Based on the information presented to the Board, there was not enough evidence presented for probable cause to have a full Hearing.

Secretary Loy made the motion that the Challenge be dismissed for lack of evidence, seconded by Member Richardson, and the vote was unanimous.

ITEM #4 – ADJOURNMENT

Member Richardson made the motion, seconded by Secretary Loy, and the vote was unanimous to adjourn this meeting at 5:52 pm.

Next meeting is set for October 24, 2017 at 5:00 pm – Absentee Meeting

Minutes Read and Approved,

Respectfully Submitted,

Toni K. Reece, Chair

Tina Cardwell, Director