

Special Meeting

November 9, 2000

The Board of County Commissioners, in and for the County of Otero, State of New Mexico, met in a Special Meeting at the Otero County Courthouse in Alamogordo, County and State aforesaid. Meeting called to order by the Chairman at 5:00 p.m., November 9, 2000; and he announced that reasonable notice for this meeting was given to the Alamogordo Daily News, Mountain Monthly, and to Radio Stations, KPSA, KINN and KYEE.

Present:

Richard Zierlein	Chairman
Timothy McGinn	Vice-Chairman
Ronny Rardin	Member
Ruth Hooser	County Administrator
Virginia Fletcher	Assistant Administrator
Kim Chavez	Deputy Clerk

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Commissioner Rardin gave the invocation, Commissioner McGinn led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Zierlein led the salute to the flag of New Mexico.

I. Mary D. Quintana, Otero County Clerk, approached the Board for the purpose of conducting the canvass for the 2000 General Election. Representative Gloria Vaughan, District 51, Mr. Vaughan, and Carl Harms were present in the audience for the Canvass. Mrs. Quintana informed the Board that there were no major problems on Election Day other than the snow. The Absentee Board had results by 8:00 p.m. and were using the new Optical Scan System. The Absentee Board was very pleased with how the machine worked. There were only 21 ballots in Representative District 53, which is the biggest district that had to be hand counted. There were not

as many ballots in the other two Districts. Commissioner McGinn stated that he is glad that Otero County has such a competent Clerk's Office. Mrs. Quintana informed the Board that they would have to tally 4 ballots. Two of the ballots were emergency paper ballots in lieu of absentee. Mrs. Quintana informed the Board that this was used by a voter who applied for an absentee ballot, the ballot was mailed and the voter never received the ballot. Mrs. Quintana stated that the Clerk's Office did check to see if the original absentee ballot was not returned to the office. Commissioner Rardin read the results of the ballots and Mrs. Quintana tallied them on a tally sheet. The Commission opened a fail-safe ballot. Mrs. Quintana stated that this is a national method of voting, which is for a voter who for instance is registered in Cloudcroft and moved to Tularosa and requested to vote in the Tularosa precinct. The fail-safe ballot allows for the voter to do this. The Commission read one other fail-safe ballot. For a total of four hand tallied ballots. The Commission stated that they would like to spot check a couple of precincts. Commissioner McGinn requested that precinct 15B be reviewed. Commissioner Rardin requested that precinct 32 be looked over.

Commissioner Rardin read the votes off the voting machine tapes and Commissioner Zierlein verified the numbers with the grid sheet for precinct 15B and precinct 32. Commissioner Rardin made a motion to approve the Canvass for the 2000 General Election. Commissioner McGinn seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. The Commission thanked Mrs. Quintana and her staff for all their hard work. The canvass was completed at 5:35 p.m.

II. Executive Session:

a) Commissioner McGinn made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss pending and threatening litigation. Commissioner Rardin seconded the motion. Roll call was taken as follows:

Commissioner Zierlein yes

Commissioner McGinn yes

Commissioner Rardin yes

Commissioner Rardin made a motion to return to Regular Session and stated all that was discussed was pending and threatening litigation. Commissioner McGinn seconded the motion.

Commissioner McGinn yes

Commissioner Zierlein yes

Commissioner Rardin yes

There being no further business before the Commission, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

APPROVED:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Mary D. Quintana
Otero County Clerk