

Meeting of 10 February 2005

The meeting was called to order by the Secretary at 10:02 am.

Present were Kevin Linehan, Chairman; Dirk Brouwer, Vice Chairman; T. Q. Hutchinson, Secretary and John Harold, General Registrar. Gerald "Jerry" O'Dell attended.

The Secretary advised the Board that an appointment with the Reverend Gray, Pastor at Fairfax United Methodist Church had been made for 10:15 am. This had resulted from the following: On 9 February 2005 the General Registrar had received a phone call from the City Manager. This, in turn, had resulted from a phone call from Councilman Greenfield. The Councilman stated that the Pastor of Fairfax United Methodist Church had not been contacted regarding the use of its facilities as a polling place. The Councilman requested that a letter be addressed to the Pastor requesting that he consider such use. The Secretary had been present at the time of the City Manager's call and directed the Registrar to schedule a meeting with Pastor Gray at his earliest convenience.

The Board recessed at 10:03 am to survey Fairfax United Methodist Church and meet with Pastor Gray.

The Board reconvened at 10:45 am.

The Board approved the minutes of the 3 February 2005 meeting as printed and distributed.

The Secretary stated his belief that the Vice Chairman had contacted Fairfax United Methodist Church regarding its use as a polling place and some representative of the church had said "no." The Vice Chair stated that he had indeed contacted the church and a church representative gave a negative response. The reason given was that polling activities would interfere with operation of a day school.

The Board then discussed use of the Methodist Church.

The Pastor had asked the Board to send a letter requesting use of church facilities. He would then bring the matter before his governing council. He would inform the council that the use of the facilities for a polling place would necessitate closing of the day school on election days.

The Board agreed that the Methodist church is generally suitable for use as a polling place. However it is not as suitable as the Paul VI facilities. Moreover, in view of the importance of day schools to working families, the Board is unwilling to ask any facility operator to forgo day school operations.

The Board appreciated the Pastor's offer but concluded that time pressures preclude any lengthy process commencing with a letter.

Councilman Greenfield called while the meeting was in progress. The Chairman, Vice Chairman and General Registrar conversed with the councilman. The councilman was told of the Board's communication with the Methodist Church. The councilman was also apprised of the Board's belief that any substantial delay in the current legislative schedule would be inconsistent with making voters aware of the new polling place.

The councilman seemed to concur with the Board that Fairfax United Methodist Church should not be included in the facilities to be listed in the draft legislation to be introduced by City Council on 8 March 2005.

It is worth noting that Mr. O'Dell, who had been observing the meeting, left stating that the Board's devotion to duty was to be commended.

The Board entered executive session to discuss a personnel matter at 11:00 am. The Board returned to open session at 11:10 am. No resolution of the issue had been made.

The Board agreed that at City Council's meeting of 8 February 2005, Council had directed the Board to prepare legislation offering Council a choice between the Mennonite Church and Paul VI High School as the polling place for precinct 2.

The Board believed that it had made clear to Council that the Mennonite Church was not suitable because it is not:  
ADA compliant and there is  
No air conditioning in the room to be used

The Board also believes that Public Funds cannot be made available upgrade the facility before the June 2005 election.

The Board directed the General Registrar to draft legislation offering City Council a choice of the Mennonite Church or Paul VI High School. Explanatory materials are to reflect the Boards belief that Paul VI High School is totally ADA compliant, easily accessible from Route 50 and offers excellent facilities.

In contrast the Mennonite Church would require spending of Public Monies to become ADA compliant.

The Mennonite Church's lack of air conditioning would result in an uncomfortable work place for the officers of election during May and June elections. The Board believes that the City is precluded by Law from air conditioning any church building at this time. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

T. Q. Hutchinson,

Secretary