

Minutes of Meeting of February 6, 2004.

The meeting was called to order by T.Q. Hutchinson, Secretary at 10:15am.

Present were: Winifred C. Steinbach, Chairman; Dirk Brouwer, Vice-Chairman; T. Q. Hutchinson, Secretary; John Harold, General Registrar; T. Q. Hutchinson presided.

The minutes of the December 12, 2003 meeting were approved as printed and distributed.

The Board appointed Officers of Election (OE) as shown in the enclosed listing. These Officers will commence service on March 1, 2004. It was noted that other OE'S may be appointed from time-to-time.

The General Registrar had asked for an evaluation of his first 10 months in office. The Board adopted the following statement:

A calm, business-like air pervades the GR'S Office. Martial music no longer blares from a record player.

The adversarial relationships between the GR'S office and: City Staff, The Federal Court in Richmond, State Board of Elections. The Governor's Office, etc., no longer exist.

New voting machines have been purchased and deployed with minimal fanfare. Outreach and public acceptance was exceptionally smooth and complete.

The GR'S Office now gains maximum value from the available desk top computers and associated software. Staff hours are used economically. Saturdays when the office must be open, only one staff member is required to be present. Previously three staff were deployed at premium pay.

Deputy Registrars are now full fledged City Employees. Previously they had served without job descriptions, assured benefits, etc. Training for GR and Deputy have become an accomplished priority.

In less than one year the GR has conducted three elections and changed the Office from a center of controversy to a center of excellence.

The Secretary stated that he had been told informally that W. C. Steinbach had not been recommended for reappointment by the Chair of the Republican Party. "T. Q." thanked Winnie for her helpful, cheerful presence during some difficult years. "Dirk" added his thanks and appreciation.

The Secretary stated that he had not been advised of W. C. Steinbach's replacement. The General Registrar stated that he had not been advised of the replacement's name. Accordingly, the Secretary stated that he would defer calling the meeting required by Code in March 2004 until either being advised at the new Board Member's name or 15 March 2004, whichever occurs first. The Secretary further advised that Board Members continue to serve until replaced by the Court.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.