

Election Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, Nov 26, 2016

Board Members attending: Charlene M, (Election Chair), Charlotte M, Rudy P, Kevin N., Gerald D, Richard J,

Landowners attending: Linda U, Sally M, Leo K, Dorothy K, Claudette D, Ia W, Chris W., Tim B., James G., Janice B., Valery O.(Came in at 12 Noon)

Also attending:

Meeting Called to Order at 10:10 a.m.

Agenda:

1. Recount of SG ballots
2. Q & A of voting procedures and reasons for the recount
3. Discuss new procedures for processing absentee ballots and verifying eligibility.
4. Discuss next Election Committee meeting in January 2017, 18th or 25th?

Recount of SG ballots

The purpose of the recount was to correct a GLA error made on Nov 12 that erroneously disqualified one landowner's three votes.

All SG ballots were recounted on Nov 26. The 5-vote ballot for Kathleen R., that was erroneously disqualified on Nov 12 and only counted for 2 votes, was able to be distinguished from the other ballots in the ballot box. It was established that her payment was received by Nov 12 but processed after her absentee ballot had been marked for only 2 votes. She was eligible to have 5 votes on Nov 12. The original ballot was marked for 5 votes on Nov 26 and counted with all the SG ballots for the recount. Four ballot counters worked together to insure the accuracy of the recount.

Questions and Concerns were raised regarding the Nov 12 vote.

1. Alan S. is the Director of the Business Office for Church Universal and Triumphant, Inc. He voted on Nov 12 for CUT Inc. properties in NG and SG. The GLA does not have a written statement that he is the designated representative to cast these ballots. There is an historical practice of Alan S. casting ballots for CUT for a number of years. Are these votes for CUT disqualified? Should there be a new election and throw out the results of the Nov 12 vote and the Nov 26 recount?
2. Regarding Candidate Ed D., the GLA does not have a notarized statement from TP Inc that he is their designated representative, only a typed statement from TP Inc President Clare P., that Ed is representing TP Inc. Ed has served on the GLA board for 2 years and was just reelected on Nov 12. Does this lack of a notarized statement disqualify Ed from serving as a newly reelected board member? Should the next candidate with the most votes take Ed's place on the board?

3. Question: Can an individual landowner (not a corporation or trust) assign another person to be their designated representative by a signed notarized document?
4. Rudy (treasurer) paid 65 cents of his own money on Nov 12 to cover a shortfall of 65 cents from the \$55.00 check mailed in by Kathleen R., to cover properties SG 51-B, C, & D. Rudy also paid 20 cents of his own money to cover a check from Herb Dawson on properties NG 35-A and NG 38-A. Is this a benevolent donation or fraudulent behavior? Does this action disqualify the landowner's votes?
5. Is the recounting of ballots on Nov 26 a recount or a new election? Since the original ballot in question was retrieved from the group of ballots and counted for its correct number of votes and no new ballots were added, is this a true recount? The results of the recount show that one proxy ballot was not counted on Nov 12. Do we go with the numbers of the recount on Nov 26 and use these numbers as the final count?
6. Candidate George M withdrew himself via email on Nov 16. This was after the annual election on Nov 12 and before the recount on Nov 26. Does this fact alter the results of the recount? Does this automatically disqualify George and allow the candidate with the next highest votes to take his place? Or is a board vote required to acknowledge George's withdrawal as a candidate and taking the next in line to serve on the board??
7. Question of Bylaws, Article 6 Section D. Election and Term of Office. *"Directors shall be elected for terms of two years to fill any open positions. The members of the Board shall hold office until their respective successors have been elected by the Members and duly qualify."* The historical GLA practice has been to allow existing BOD members to fulfill their duties until their successor has been seated on the board at the next monthly board meeting. Example, Rudy, our treasurer, is still the acting treasurer even though he was not a candidate for reelection. If there needs to be a new election because of the concerns raised, will Rudy continue for a longer period of time as Treasurer until his successor is seated?

Rudy and Leo volunteered to work on the questions to be sent to the attorney. It was suggested that Attorney Alanah Griffith could attend the beginning of the Dec 5 BOD meeting to address these questions. A written opinion is required for the record even if she attends the meeting.

One landowner stated that the Nov 12 count should stand and if Leo K. was denied a seat on the board he would contact the Attorney General of MT and the Secretary of State and sue the board. He wanted a new election in January. He later suggested that the attorney's opinion on

the concerns surrounding the vote could guide the board's decisions regarding the results of the recount.

Results of SG Recount:

Directors:

Tim B.	40
Ed D.	63
Leo K.	47
Dan K.	55
Jerry L.	21
George M.	50
Jeff R.	33

Ombudsman:

Miriam B.	82
Debbie B.	3 (write in)

Kevin examined the ballots and the tallies from Nov 12 and Nov 26. He determined that one proxy ballot was not counted on Nov 12. Question #5 to the attorney will guide the board in the results of the recount.

The need for future Election Committee meetings to improve voting procedures was discussed. The next meeting will occur in mid-January 2017.

Meeting adjourned 12:45 p.m. p.m.