**April Board of Elections Meeting**

**Brunswick County**

**Thursday, April 21, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.**

Present: Chairman, Stuart Smith and Boyd Williamson, Secretary. Absent: Randy Pelton

Staff Present: Sara Knotts, Director and Melissa Monroe, Deputy Director

LWV members: Gail Bromley and Beth Kirschner

Others present included: candidates for the race where the protest affects the vote and members from Town Council, Calabash

Local newspapers were present.

This meeting was designed to combine regular monthly business and the candidate protest by Alan Lewis.

**Public Comments**: Calabash Council members spoke to their problems with Shingletree voting site at Sunset Beach Clubhouse. This is the site that recently sent the Board of Elections a letter requesting additional reimbursement for allowing polling at their private facility. This site also presents problems for voters in Calabash who are assigned to that facility as their polling place. Parking is only one of the issues at hand.

After much discussion, this is a site that needs to be looked at for a possible move but any move requires numerous steps and approvals. This will be revisited at the May meeting and future meetings if needed, but the site will not be moved until after the Fall election cycle is completed.

**Candidate Protest:** Alan Lewis is contending that candidate Louie Lewis does not live in the area where he ran for office. Mike Forte won that election with Alan Lewis second and Louie Lewis third. Being a resident of the district for which a person is seeking office is a requirement for being on the ballot. Since Louie Lewis owns several properties, determining domicile is important for a ruling. The County Attorney looked at the procedures that go into making a determination on this. Was it a timely protest? Yes. If Louie Lewis was found to be unqualified to be on the ballot, was his third place vote number difference enough to give a different outcome? Yes. Given that the two main elements requiring a full hearing were met, a full hearing will be held on Wednesday, May 4 at 9:00 a.m.

**Director’s Report:** The only election for June 7 is for the Supreme Count.

**2016-2017 Budget:** Sara was going to present the agency’s budget that afternoon to the County Commissioners.

**New Poll Worker Rules:** The North Carolina State Board of Elections has decided that no judge is to be involved in the initial determination made on photo IDs matching those presenting an ID for voting. That will cause major problems for staffing and will require at minimum, four more staff needed at every precinct.