

**SPECIAL IRON COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 9, 2024**

Minutes of the Special Iron County Commission meeting convened at 4:00 p.m. July 9, 2024 in Commission Chambers at the Iron County Courthouse, Parowan, Utah.

Officers in attendance included:

Michael Bleak	Commission Chair
Paul Cozzens	Commissioner
Marilyn Wood	Commissioner-Excused
Jonathan T. Whittaker	County Clerk

Also present:

Kenneth Carpenter	County Sheriff
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Others present:

Steve Barton	Wes Barton	Evelyn Jensen
Blaine Nay	Jade Nelson	Susan Sepe
Steve Swann		

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INVOCATION

An invocation was offered by Kenneth Carpenter.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those assembled were led in the pledge of allegiance by Lieutenant Taylor.

CANVAS OF THE JUNE 25, 2024 PRIMARY ELECTION

Jon Whittaker, Iron County Clerk, noted that he would like to recognize the presence of Kenneth Carpenter, Iron County Sheriff. Chad Dotson, Iron County Attorney, was in court today, but Sam Woodall, Deputy Iron County Attorney was here. The election code says that once the canvas has begun, the canvass cannot end until it is completed. Jon explained that Chad Dotson felt that it would be appropriate to have Sheriff Carpenter here for this second day of convening for the canvass.

Sam Woodall, Iron County Deputy Attorney, reported that it could be entered into the record that attempts were made to reach out to representatives of the State of Utah by Jon Whittaker, Sheriff Carpenter, and Commissioner Cozzens.

Jon Whittaker expressed his appreciation to Senator Evan Vickers for summarizing some of the advice he had been receiving from different parties around the state including Speaker Shultz and Tom Vaughn, Legal Council for the legislature. Jon read the letter that Senator Vickers wrote:

“I wanted to reach out to you with some information that I think will help you in your decision today regarding the certification of the Primary Election in Iron County. I have

consulted with Speaker Schultz, President Adams, Lieutenant Governor Henderson, and our legislative legal staff that handles all our election laws. We are all in total agreement as to your options.

One, the statute is crystal clear that the ballot must be postmarked or otherwise marked by the Postal Service certifying that the ballot was received before the deadline to be counted.

Two, any wiggle room that exists has to be within the law, or in other words certification by the Postal Service that the ballot was received in the proper allotted time. We give the voter ample opportunity to cast their ballot, mailing the ballots out three weeks in advance, allowing for in-person voting, requiring the clerks to have drop boxes in every city and accepting ballots at the clerk's office. When the clerk chooses to accept a ballot to count, he or she has to have ironclad evidence that will stand up in a court of law because the decision will end up in a court for a final interpretation. A voter saying, they put it in the mail would not be considered ironclad and probably wouldn't stand up in court. The question came up as to what would happen if the county chose not to certify the election. The unfortunate fact is that the state would have to take the county to court and the judge would force the county to certify the election. We are elected to govern and do so under the statute. We don't create our own statute, nor do we get to choose what portion of the law we follow and what we don't. The best way to govern is to follow the law, act under the direction of the law, and if we would like to see changes, then work on those changes at a later time. I hope this helps, Evan."

Kenneth Carpenter, Iron County Sheriff, reported that he reached out to the Attorney General's Office and the Lieutenant Governor's office. He spoke with Ryan Cowley, Election Director, who made it perfectly clear that part of the purpose of the canvassers was to review our County Clerk and the election processes, and to ensure that the county clerk had done everything accurately to the best of his ability. Sheriff Carpenter noted that Ryan Cowley also made it perfectly clear that the law was very concise that any mail-in ballots had to be marked at the designated time, and there was no wiggle room beyond that. Sheriff Carpenter talked with Scott Cheney, Attorney General's Liaison for Voting to the Lieutenant Governor's Office. One of the things that Scott said, that Ken thought was really quite interesting, was the Iron County Attorney was given no wiggle room and was very specific. If the county attorney was given wiggle room to pick and choose whether this vote counted, or that vote counted, the State of Utah would have 29 counties each doing their own thing and there would be no order to the vote. In order to protect the sanctity of the vote, the law has been put in place specifically, with no wiggle room, for the county clerk or the legislative body. Sheriff Carpenter replied that as he reflected upon that, it occurred to him that there was a lot more at stake here than the 400 plus votes of those people, who he believed were very sincere in doing their due diligence to try to get their ballots cast through the United States Postal Service (USPS) in the appropriate time to be marked. But the USPS failed, and that was the bottom line. The postal service failed our citizens. He noted that, unfortunately, the way the state law was written there was no wiggle room. Sheriff Carpenter stated that one of the issues was, as he talked with these gentlemen and others, things that they had also conveyed was that by not certifying this canvas that we also put at risk the other 9,000 plus voters in disenfranchising them. As he really thought and reflected on this, he really felt that as much heartache as it gave him to see 400 ballots, that he thought were legitimately cast, not have the hard fast evidence to be able to support counting them. And as a result, in order to protect the sanctity of the vote in Iron County, we have to approve this canvas. That was the sum total of what he found out in talking with numerous people, including other people who have been involved in state government for a long time. Sheriff Carpenter expressed his appreciation for all of their time and effort to help educate him and help him understand. He stated that he did not like this situation, and there were things that we could do to correct this situation in the future. Unfortunately, at the end of the day the USPS failed Iron County.

Paul Cozzens reported that when it came time to vote on certifying the election, he had a statement that he would like to read. He expressed that he did not blame the Iron County Clerk or his office personnel. They do a wonderful job. Paul reported that approximately 6 years ago, the ballots were late. He did not remember what happened, but thought that the ballots came short of

the deadline. Two elections ago only half of the ballots were delivered and the rest were missing, and now the issue with this election. This has to be fixed and we cannot keep going like this. Every election had been really rough and we cannot keep doing this, and there needed to be some serious changes. Commissioner Cozzens expressed his appreciation to the legislature and having some of them reach out to report that they had already begun some bill files and interim meetings regarding elections and what we need to do to fix some of these problems.

Michael Bleak reported that he had reached out and talked to several people as well, including Senator Vickers who was speaking with Speaker Schultz in conjunction with their conversations, and several other county commissioners. Commissioner Bleak explained that there was an organization, Utah Association of Counties (UAC). Within UAC, there were different affiliate groups. All the elected positions have their own affiliate group within UAC. The one that the commissioners belong to is called the Utah State Association of County Commissioners and Councils (USACCC). He noted that there was a USACCC meeting yesterday and he had several of those members reach out to him. There were 60 people present in that meeting and it was basically unanimous that Iron County must certify this election. They brought up several points. One of them was the state law (he was paraphrasing) reads, "If the information provided by the clerk's office was clear and no evidence of malfeasance or fraud, etc., the Board of Canvassers shall certify that election." Mike reported that with his background as a police officer, there was only one other law that he dealt with that said "shall." The vast majority of laws give a great deal of discretion on how we handle the law. The only other "shall" law that he dealt with was regarding domestic violence. If there was physical evidence of domestic violence, you "shall" arrest that perpetrator, and they go to jail. This was the only other law that he came across, in his own personal dealings, that the legislators had given the "shall" requirement. It does not say we get to pick and choose. It doesn't say that we can pick a part of it. It says that we "shall" approve the canvas if it meets the requirements of the law. Mike noted that he had spent the last, almost 29 years, in public service and had taken several different oaths to support the law, to support the Constitution, and this was no different. The law says "shall", and it meets the code requirements. Now, that being said, it does not mean that board supported the canvas and then walked away. Obviously, there were issues and there were many things that could be done. Commissioner Bleak reported that he was speaking to one of the Beaver County Commissioners today that was interesting. The state actually provided funding for 24-hour secure election drop boxes. He had known about this funding as it came down the pike a year or so ago. The commissioners discussed it during the budget hearings. Mike replied that he was going to take some responsibility and say that we as the Iron County Commission, dropped the ball on that. Had those boxes been in place it would have given people a lot more opportunity not to trust the USPS, and to drop those ballots in a 24-hour secure lock boxes. Talking to other commissioners across the state who have implemented the lock boxes, say that their voting numbers were up and the lock boxes were very secure. This was something that Iron County could do, and he would commit that the lock boxes would be in place before the November election.

Jon Whittaker reported that there would be 24 ballot drop boxes here for the November election.

Michael Bleak noted that this was something that we could do to help mitigate this problem. This was an administrative problem, but we know how to fix it to some degree. We could at least contribute greatly to the fix. The issues with USPS would have to be ironed out, but there were certain things that we could do, as a county, to bring a fix to that problem, and the commission would commit to that. As he reported earlier, he talked with Senator Vickers in conjunction with Speaker Schultz. Mike read speaker Schultz's position, "The law is crystal clear. The ballot must be postmarked or otherwise marked the day before the election. There is a provision that says, "in an issue of controversy effort should be met to meet the will of the voter, and the clerk can make that judgement," but, there has to be ironclad evidence of what that is and a sworn affidavit from the voter isn't enough. Remembering this will ultimately be decided in court by a judge. There would have to be evidence from the USPS that the ballot did get put in the day before the election and that the post marked was the next day. An affidavit alone would

not be enough. We consulted with our legislative legal expert on the election law and he agreed. If the clerk decides to stick their neck out they better have ironclad evidence.”

Sheriff Carpenter reported that one of the things in his conversations last night, was that the ironclad evidence, in this particular case, would have to come from the post office.

Michael Bleak noted that it was the same, that the evidence would have to be provided by the post office because they were the first handler of that mail, and they would have to be the ones to provide that evidence. Anything else would not be admissible in court.

Jon Whittaker reported that he had multiple conversations with USPS about the evidence that he had, and if there were anything that they could show that those ballots were mailed on time and we have not found anything. The post office had been able to answer his questions, but they do not have anything that they could show him that says because of this, we can show that they probably were mailed on time. Jon reported that he went to Salt Lake City to pick up an ultraviolet scanner. He scanned the time stamp on the ballots and all the time stamps were late. Jon noted that he could make a compelling argument, and even going against the law, that it was somehow in a box before election day. Even though he had a lot of anecdotal evidence, he did not have anything concrete between the scanning of the ultraviolet code on the back, to the date stamp itself. Jon stated that there was no one who would rather count these ballots more than himself, but he was bound by the law.

Commissioner Bleak replied that he wanted to point out that there was a provision that said, “in an issue of controversy, effort should be made to meet the will of the voter, and the clerk can make that judgment.” In this instance, Jon hand-sorted ballots, and in fact found several ballots that had a post marked by the post office, but also had a hand stamp from one post office that gave a date that matched, and then another postmark, from Las Vegas that didn't. And those ballots were counted. Jon drove to Salt Lake City and picked up an ultraviolet scanner to come down and individually scan all of those ballots to try and make them valid, but were all late. Jon then took the scanner and drove to Washington County, met with their Clerk Auditor's Office because they had the same issue, and try and validate those ballots in Washington County. Mike reported that once again, our Clerk's Office had gone above and beyond. He noted that this speaks to the very fabric of our nation. At the end of the day, we were a nation of rules that were governed by the rule of law, and in this particular case, the rule of law was very clear and there was no wiggle room.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Michael Bleak, Iron County Commission Chair, declared to open the meeting for Public Comments.

Steve Swann, a citizen of Iron County, said that he would certainly like to commend the commission and everyone involved. This was a dilemma that he did not think had a good resolution one way or the other, and that there were technicalities. Steve noted that he and his wife placed their ballots in the neighborhood postal box on Sunday before the election, and they trusted in the system. They probably should have taken the ballots to the post office. This was a tragedy. He recommended, that in the future, Iron County, if possible, place a warning label on the ballots saying, “We cannot trust that the postmark will be postmarked on the deadline date.” Steve stated that this issue should be thrown back the USPS and say we don't trust you. Put it in writing and put it on the ballot. If the USPS cannot clearly provide evidence. He understood that it was a federal law that when you put something in a postal box and you try to pull it back out, you were going to be in trouble. He and his wife put the ballots in the postal box, and it was a trust. Once mail was delivered to the post office, there's nothing we can do about it. There has been a huge breach of trust in this whole process. Mr. Swan replied the he stood here today not only as a citizen, but as a voice for others in Iron County who have been stripped of a fundamental right, the right to vote. He was appalled that our governor, and other state leaders, were so willing to dismiss our votes so capriciously. They do have a remedy and could correct this. There were processes, but they were choosing not to use them. Many of us within Iron County, now find ourselves disenfranchised, our voices silenced, our choices dismissed. In a democracy, the ability to cast a ballot was not just a privilege, it was a cornerstone of our

freedom, a beacon of our equality, and a testament to our shared power to shape the future. Steve reported that this was not just about a ballot. It was about dignity, respect, and recognition, and ensuring that every citizen had an equal say in the governance of our society. It was about preserving the integrity of our democracy. Today, he asked each of commissioners to raise their voices and to advocate for legal action to correct this error of legislative ruling and make our votes count.

Evelyn Jensen, a resident of Minersville, stated that she wanted to get this out so all Cedar City and Iron County residents could talk. Evelyn reported that Minersville did have a drop box for them to put their ballot in, which was secured and it was a safe place to drop your ballot. She noted that she used to live in Las Vegas, Nevada and she remembered when the mail went in and the mail went out. She talked to the Postmaster General years ago about this. They have a way to know when that mail arrived at their facility and when it left. That was before they post stamped it and ran it through their machines. Evelyn reported that there were ten counties in 2022 across the nation from Pennsylvania, to New Mexico, and Nevada that chose not to certify their elections because they wanted to make sure everyone's vote counted, and they were able to go back and verify. For example, Esmeralda County in Nevada chose not to certify their election and they were able to go back, there's only about 740 people there, and verify every single one of those votes and then they certified the election. There was precedence to this. In 2020, the same thing happened in multiple counties across the country. Evelyn noted that the residents of Iron County tried to vote. She believed that they put their ballot in on time. There was not a reasonable expectation that when they put their ballots in at the post office, or into a box, that their vote would count and would be postmarked on that day. In Minersville, the postmaster always made sure that every ballot was stamped before it went anywhere. So there was a reasonable expectation from every person here. Not one of them knew that our mail went Las Vegas. She did not even know, and she used to live in Las Vegas. She had no idea that the mail was being shipped from nine counties in Utah down to Las Vegas, a massive city with over a million people and mail going through there like crazy, and that this could happen. A warning was not put on the ballot. She stated that this was not just up to the clerks. It was up to whoever ran the elections up in Salt Lake City. Were there votes that were not counted last year in the special election because they went through Las Vegas, and did not get post marked in time? If this was a possibility in multiple counties, the election officials knew about it and they knew this was an issue.

Jon Whittaker, noted that he did notice more late postmark ballots last year and he became concerned. He invited the Postal Service to the Utah Association of Counties (UAC) meetings this spring, and they pressed the Postal Service on this issue. The Postal Service assured them that all mail got a timely postmark.

Evelyn noted that whoever watches over the elections knew this happened last year. Therefore, because they knew what happened last year, they knew it could happen this year. So why was there not a warning sent out to the nine counties that their mail went to Las Vegas, so that they would have been aware of it. People have their right to vote and their constitutional rights were taken away from them for a fair election.

Susan Sepe, a resident of Parowan, noted, that first, she wanted to say that most of the time when she attended the commission meetings, she was critical of the commission because there was one thing or another that she was not happy with and the decisions that the commissioners made. But, she was very pleased and applauded all the efforts in trying to make sure that this election was full of integrity. Susan reported that her friend, Carol, who was not in attendance here today, was watching the Utah County Canvas and she sent a text saying that there were over 800 returns after the election date in Utah County, and 6% of their ballots were undeliverable. That was a large number. What worried Susan was that you talk about the Constitution, well what about our constitutional rights. Basically, if the commission certified this election with the results not being accurate, you were hindering the candidates, not only the people who vote, and that violated their constitutional rights. She noted that ultimately what we were going to have to do in this country was to go back to voting in person. Voting in person was the most accurate and most secure way vote. A person received an absentee ballot only when

they needed one, so that would be very rare. In the 2020 election Donald Trump requested that the results not be certified because there was discrepancy. She noted that there was a great discrepancy in Iron County, Washington County, and over the state in this election. Susan reported that she overheard a comment from one gentleman to another gentleman in attendance that when you put your mail in the post office box, no matter where it was, it became the property of the United States Post Office. We should be holding the USPS accountable. Not by moving ahead and saying oh they made a mistake and slap their hand and say okay we will certify the election anyway. That that was wrong, absolutely wrong. Utah should take a stance and say we would do everything possible to make sure that our elections were full of integrity and honesty. Susan replied that right now we cannot say that and we cannot say that for the last three elections. She reported that during one of the elections, the ballots never got delivered to her home. Who knows where they went. They were in limbo somewhere. That election was not secure. and we need to take a stance. She also found it very disheartening that the person who oversees elections in this state, was actually on the ballot. That was a conflict of interest. Utah should have a Secretary of State that oversees elections. Most states do. This was the only state in which she had ever lived in that did not have a Secretary of State. So right there, it was bias, and it had no integrity to it. The person on the ballot did not have the privilege to oversee her own election. Thank you very much for your time, and she really appreciated what the commissioners had done here.

Wes Barton, a citizen of Iron County, reported that he would be one of the 9,000 whose vote would not be counted if this election was not certified. He did not think it was fair to throw those votes because of the 400 votes that, unfortunately, could not be counted, Wes wanted to make the point that the commodity being thrown in the harbor was not tea, this was his vote. He would remember if his vote was held as a pawn in someone's political game.

Jade Nelson, a citizen of Iron County, noted that she thought that there was some validation, or valid reasons, to change voting going forward. She did not feel like we could change the rules as they stood. She did not want her vote thrown out. It's not fair or right. It was an ugly situation, but it happened. Throwing out 9,000 votes would not make it right. With what we do forward, let's open that up tomorrow. Jade reported that this election needed to be certified.

Evelyn Jensen reported that in all of the counties that chose not to certify, all the other votes did get counted and certified. All the votes were counted and nothing gets thrown out. The ballots could not be thrown out just because the election was not certified today. Ballots were all certified. They took their time and made sure everything was put together and then they certified in all of those counties across the country.

Sheriff Carpenter reported he was specifically told that we ran the risk of disenfranchising the other 9,000 voters.

Evelyn Jensen stated that of course, they use that as a bully tactic, and a closing deal you close someone. That was absolutely not true. That would not stand up in a federal court of law because the judge would not allow that. They will make sure that those votes get counted. We were just trying to make sure that the other voters that got their ballots in on time were also counted because they have that right too.

Steve Swann replied that this begs a question he had to ask. He knew there was remedy under the law, obviously. This could be done at the county level and it could be done at the state level. He noted that he would really like to know the specific law, section, and article on it because it does not seem correct. It appears like there was some politics going on here with threatening or extortion, and that does not seem right either. He stated that he did not think a county should be extorted in this way.

Michael Bleak noted that he did not think we were going in that direction. It was not a major talking point either. The law was very clear, the statute was very clear, and the language was crystal clear.

Jon Whittaker replied that he did not find any empirical evidence that the suspect ballots were mailed on time. He stated that no one wanted to be able to count those ballots more than himself.

Blaine Ney, a Citizen of Iron County, stated that this was why he never wanted to hold public office. Blaine reported that he really respected all of the commissioners, and the sense of responsibility they gave to this issue. He assured the commissioners that he would give full respect to whatever decision this body made, and equal respect to any dissenting votes.

Paul Cozzens noted that he would like to respond to Mr. Barton's comments. Paul reported that he ran a business for 33 years and he sold it to his son about 6 or 7 years ago. He hated quarterly sales tax with a passion, and he usually put it off until the very last minute. He would hurry and get it done and run it over to the post office and usually made it by 4:45 p.m. on the last day. He always knew, or could count on the fact that the post office would postmark it by 5:00 p.m. That was what he expected for 38 years since the business had been in operation. He would go to the post office and counted on a timely postmark. Chuck Taylor mentioned yesterday that he went to the post office, granted it was late on the 24th at 4 o'clock, deposited his mail and counted on the mail being postmarked. Commissioner Cozzens reported that he truly believed that of the 429 ballots, Jon counted 14 of those ballots that were hand-stamped because those were in a batch. Paul noted that, today, he talked to the mayor of Glendale, who worked for the post office for seven years, said that he thought that batch was ran together and he believed that all of those ballots were legit. Paul reported that based on all the feedback he had received he felt that the ballots were legit, He had no proof, but he did go out on Sunday and he met with five people that voted that said they voted earlier and on time. He reported that he had signed affidavits that were notarized. Paul noted that they would have discussions to try and figure this out to know where people could use a drop box.

Michael Bleak called a short recess to make sure the audio was working for those listening to the live feed online,

Michael Bleak declared the reconvening of the Iron County Commission.

Steve Barton, a resident of Paragonah, reported this was an unfortunate situation and he would not want to be in any of the commissioners' shoes. He commented that the commissioners were champs dealing with this issue. Steve reported that the town of Paragonah did have a drop box located in the Paragonah City Office. He noted that he dropped his ballot into the drop box, and it worked out perfectly. Steve reported that he agreed with Commissioner Cozzens that the postal service should be trusted, but he had not been able to trust the postal service for years. The profession where he worked depended on the USPS and they recently received a check from a customer that was sent six months ago. Unfortunately, those 400 votes did not get counted. He explained that his issue was that we should be able the Postal Service, but it isn't trusted. Those who placed their ballot at the post office thought it was on time and would be counted. He did not feel that this election should be certified on hearsay, as mentioned earlier that there was no evidence. Steve reported to Jon Whittaker that he did reach out to Utah County and they did certify their election and the vote was unanimous.

Paul continued to finish the point that he was trying to make. People trust the post office. He had not known that the mail went to Vegas. Chuck Taylor took his in, 3.45-4:00 p.m. and it should have been postmarked.

Jon Whittaker reported that he certainly felt like there was a reasonable expectation. In his own letter he spoke about that. He believed that there ought to be a reasonable expectation that you would get a timely postmark.

Commissioner Cozzens noted that those ballots got shipped to Las Vegas. He reported that he listened to audio from Commissioner Celeste Myers from Kane County. She said that she went and talked to a Postal Service person that said, "if it was put in the post office past midnight, they account for that." So what happened?

Jon Whittaker shared his frustration. He did find out that they don't roll the date until 7 a.m. because they process mail from all over. Jon noted that he had hoped to show that the ballots went through earlier in the day, but the earliest he found was June 25th at 6:00 p.m. He had also hoped to demonstrate with something empirical that the ballots were in possession of the USPS before the 25th. Ultimately, he was unsuccessful. So, yes there should be a reasonable expectation of a timely postmark.

Paul Cozzens expressed his appreciation to Sheriff Carpenter. Paul reported that he had reached out to Ryan Cowley, Lieutenant Governor's Officer, and had a good talk with him. Some of the comments sounded a little like a threat. He noted that he asked Ryan Cowley if Iron County did not certify the election what would happen. Ryan noted that the other 9,000 votes could be at risk. Paul noted that he would challenge that because he did not think any judge in the world would do that. Paul read his statement:


"We still lack the answers needed to ensure the voices of over 400 voters were heard. In our ever-changing world, the law must stay current. The USPS has changed their procedures for processing mail in our area, which we had all talked about and a lot of us did not know about the change. The laws need to be amended to protect and recognize ballots being legitimately mailed so that every vote counts and will continue to count in the future. We want our voters, and future voters, to know that we value their voice in this process. Voting is a right and a privilege. Some argue that we had three weeks to vote, so why were some voters cutting so close? I think we had a good answer to that yesterday from Mrs. Matthews that said, "I don't like to vote early. I like to wait till the last because there's always something that seems to come out about a candidate after I voted early and then I wish I would have changed my vote after. I usually cut it pretty close but I usually use a drop box." Paul noted that Iron County does use drop boxes. There were drop boxes in Cedar City, Enoch, Parowan, Beryl, Paragonah, Brian Head, and Kanarraville, but they were indoors and not 24-7 which was something we need to improve. Paul continued with his written statement. "This highlights the need to reconsider our voting methods. Perhaps returning to opt-in mail voting for those who cannot vote in person and emphasizing in-person voting with a valid ID. Given these concerns, I cannot, in good conscience, vote to certify this election. This does not mean that the votes of 9,000 voters should be discarded. A denial of certification would prompt the Attorney General's Office to force certification in the coming days. What is legal is not always right. Today, it is more important to send a message that elections are crucial and every vote counts, rather than to be a rubber stamp and certify something that is broken. Therefore, I cannot vote to certify this election."


Sheriff Carpenter reported that he spent 20 years in the Marine Corps, and all but three of those years were outside of the State of Utah. As a result, each time an election came, he voted through an absentee ballot. It was very difficult, because he was serving our country to protect our right to vote and his right to vote. And yet, almost without fail, the absentee ballots were received so late that the elections were already certified. He knew that in those 20 years that his vote was almost never counted. He understood the thoughts and feelings of the people who are in this situation today. Sheriff Carpenter noted that he believed that Jon Whittaker had done his due diligence in trying to do everything that he could to certify these 415 votes. But at the end of the day, there was no ironclad evidence to support that they were put in the mailbox on time. He absolutely accepted the word of the people that have told us that they did so, but it's been made abundantly evident that that's not ironclad evidence and is not acceptable.

Ken Carpenter made a motion to approve the Canvas of the June 25, 2024 Primary Election. Second by Michael Bleak. Voting: Michael Bleak, Aye; Ken Carpenter, Aye; Paul Cozzens, Nay.

ADJOURNMENT

Michael Bleak, Iron County Commission Chair, declared adjournment.


Signed: Michael Bleak, Chair


Attest: Jonathan T. Whittaker, County Clerk
July 9, 2024

