Scott County Board of Supervisors
December 12, 2022 8:01 a.m.

The Board of Supervisors met pursuant to adjournment with Maxwell, Beck, Croken, Kinzer and Knobbe.

This special meeting was called for the purpose of recanvassing the votes cast at the November 8, 2022 General Election for House District 81.

Auditor Kerri Tompkins addressed the board with the results of the candidate recount. Results given as Luana Stoltenberg 5073 votes, Craig Lynn Cooper 5062 votes.

Auditor Tompkins presented a letter to the board with the process of the recount. She reviewed the auditor's office is removed from the process. Three Recount Board members were chosen and mutually agreed upon by the candidates; Diane Holst, Bill Davis, and Jim Hancock. It is the duty of the Recount Board to oversee the recount and certify their findings.

Supervisor Croken asked how many votes were missing.

Auditor Tompkins stated the administrative recount and the Recount Boards machine count totaled 10,369. The candidate hand recount total was 10,135 and confirmed all ballots were counted.

Supervisor Croken asked about 47 ballots from precinct D64 being counted.

Auditor Tompkins replied they were counted by machine on election night.

Supervisor Beck let it be known that precinct D64 was not part of the house seat being canvassed, house district 81 was being canvassed.

Supervisor Kinzer asked if the machine count matched the hand count.

Auditor Tompkins stated the machine count confirmed Cooper as the winner, which was consistent with the administrative recount. The hand count via candidate Recount Board had different results.

Supervisor Kinzer asked if this was a machinery issue, was the machine not recognizing correctly.

Supervisor Knobbe asked for explanation as to the sensitivity of the machines and how they would read the circle on the ballot.

Elections Manager James Martin explained the machines are surprisingly accurate, although some incomplete circles may be counted as an undervote.

Supervisor Maxwell asked about having a conversation in the future to smooth the process.

Supervisor Beck stated there has been a candidate recount previously in this county that went through the same process. He also stated the machines are "particular". Humidity, temperature, and the condition of the ballots can affect the production, and that breaking down to small portions makes it easier to hand count those ballots if there is an issue.

Supervisor Kinzer stated when the machines were vetted under the previous Auditor, he had asked about climate-controlled storage. He also stated the three that sat on the Recount Board are good folks and thanked them for their diligence.

Supervisor Croken also thanked the Recount Board. He also stated the machines were used statewide and that numbers were different each time counted. He would like to see a forensic audit.

Supervisor Beck asked Auditor Tompkins how many other counties held recounts.

Auditor Tompkins stated there were at least two other administrative recounts and numerous other recounts across the state. She also wanted to assure the public that all ballots were counted and that is why she called the administrative recount.

Supervisor Maxwell made an analogy of all the equipment being good, so we have a good one, after a story of faulty, highly rated equipment. He also thanked the Recount Board and expressed his confidence in their judgement.

Supervisor Kinzer verified with Auditor Tompkins that all three Recount Board members signed off on the recount.

Supervisor Beck also thanked the Recount Board for their hard work.

      Moved by Knobbe, seconded by Maxwell a motion to certify the results of the November 8, 2022 General Election. Roll Call: Four Ayes with Croken voting Nay.

      Moved by Maxwell, seconded by Knobbe at 8:23 a.m. a motion to adjourn the special meeting.

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Ken Beck, Chair of the Board
Scott County Board of Supervisors

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ATTEST: Kerri Tompkins
            Scott County Auditor

A video recording of the meeting is available on the Scott County website at:
https://www.scottcountyiowa.gov/board/board-meetings.