

Lake Los Angeles Rural Town Council  
**EMERGENCY MEETING**  
November 12, 2011

Limited action: November 8, 2011 ELECTION ISSUES

1. President Jason Gonella called the Emergency Meeting of the Lake Los Angeles Rural Town Council (LLARTC) to order at 7:15pm. The meeting was held at the home of President Jason Gonella and open to the public.
2. **PURPOSE:** To address the: Election Complaint Letter: In addition, at the start of the meeting Kristi Kennedy submitted a complaint letter to the LLARTC, regarding alleged improprieties during the recent LLARTC Election on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The LLARTC accepted and acknowledged receipt of the Complaint letter from Kristi Kennedy (Copy attached).  
**And to address the issue of:** Clif King, husband of the Election Committee Chairperson, Diane King, notified President Gonella on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 that he (Pres. Gonella) would have to remove the election results from the website as the Election Committee had not officially released the election results yet. Clif King also said that the Election Committee would be conducting a recount of the ballots and address verification. However he did not give a reason for this action by the Election Committee.
3. Attendance: In attendance were five Council Members and three member of the public. Council members attending were Jason Gonella, Kathy Terrones, Bob Horsewood, Glenn Allen and Leslie Shafer. Council members that were not present were Robin Nute (out of town, could not make the meeting), Janet Blich, Earl Chapin and Robert Blich. These absences are not counted against the Council Member's yearly absence totals, per the LLARTC's Bylaws, Article XII, Section A, paragraph 8. Members of the public attending were Kristi Kennedy, Ken Shafer and Rose Gonella. Although Diane King, the Election Committee Chairperson, or a representative of the Election Committee was specifically invited and asked to bring all the election materials because the discussion topic was the 2011 Election issues. Neither Diane King nor Clif King, nor any representative of the Election Committee was in attendance.
4. President Gonella started the discussion about the election by announcing that the Recording Secretary, Kathy Terrones has volunteered to contact the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk office to order and purchase the Street Index of Registered Voters for the LLARTC boundaries. According to Wilma Taylor in the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's (RRCC) office, the correct Street Index of Registered Voters list for our boundaries is titled the Wilsona Gardens Water District. She also confirmed that this printed list is the correct one that should have been used at the Polls for Voter Registration Verification at the election on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Anybody that asked at the polls about how the names of voters were being verified, were told that they were using a computer disc that was obtained from the county. Kristi Kennedy and Wilma Taylor from the RRCC office informed us that she knew that the computer discs obtained from the county were able to be manipulated and not secure. Names and addresses could be added or deleted at will. Kristi Kennedy said she could verify this after having purchased one the prior year.

5. Jason Gonella now moved the meeting forward by asking all who were present to read Kristi Kennedy's complaint letter. He stated that this letter would be submitted at the November meeting. Jason said that since we all had now read the letter, that it was in and of its self sufficient grounds to decertify the election. His question to us was, what, if anything, could we do, short of doing it all over again, to resolve this issue? Bob Horsewood's comment was that if we could obtain a RRCC/Street Index list from the RRCC's office and the sign-in sheet that was used at the polling place during the election on 11/08/11, then verify that the names and addresses on the sign-in sheet are in fact on the printed Street Index list from the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk office, then I don't see that there is a problem. Jason said that he could verify that there was one person that had signed in to vote, however they were unable to find him on the computer disc. He was asked to go vote across the street and return with that paperwork, then they would go ahead and allow him to vote. This individual never returned to vote. There were then questions about why the election committee wanted a recount, were there problems with the original count on Tuesday, 11/08/11 after voting. Jason explained that he observed one pair of counters and Leslie Shafer observed the other pair of counters and neither observer saw any discrepancies or unusual behavior during the original count. The only discrepancy was that there was one more signature on the sign-in sheet than there were actual ballots to count. There were 130 signatures on the sign in sheet and 129 ballots counted. Jason asked for a consensus of those present. If we can check that the names and addresses on the sign-in sheet are on the printed Street Index list from the RRCC's office is verified and the sign in sheet does not appear to be tampered with, could we accept that? The consensus was that no one seemed to have a problem with the original count and no one was in favor of a recount. The only issue seemed to be with the names and addresses on the sign-in sheet are eligible voters within the boundaries of Lake Los Angeles as verified with the printed Street Index list from the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk office. Kristi Kennedy's comment was, yes, IF everything comes back to us correctly. IF the sign-in sheet comes back with still 130 names and no apparent manipulation, and IF we get the ballots and there are still 129 ballots, then yes. We would need to verify the names and if that's accurate then that is fine. Kristi said that Clif had told her that we could verify names after the election, she answered that no we can't because how would you know which ballot to pull if the name is incorrect.
  
6. Jason's next question was that assuming this cannot be resolved without having a new election and assuming we are unable to have a new election before January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, who is on the council? Kristi answered that it is written in the Bylaws that the same council stays until there is a new election. Next question, when would be the best time to have a new election? Kristi replied that depends on when you get a new election committee. The LLARTC will have to have a whole new election committee, because the LLARTC can't run an election. The Council is not trying to manipulate things to get a different outcome. Everyone on the Council was invited. In fact the notification for this meeting was that it was an Emergency meeting and open to the public. Jason also stated the whole goal of this meeting is to have an honest outcome, not a certain outcome. The Council is trying to get an honest answer here.

7. COURSE OF ACTION as agreed upon by the Council Members present.

- 1) Kathy Terrones will be in charge of getting the printed Street Index list from the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk office.
- 2) Get the election materials from the Election Committee so our volunteers can verify the Street Index list with the voter materials.

Kristi Kennedy suggested that a deadline be set for this. The original time line for the Election Committee Chairperson was discussed. Then the question for a vote was decided.

1. MOTION #1 to be ratified on 11/22/2011 – The deadline for the Election Committee Chair, Diane King, is Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 6:00pm, to have the sign-in sheet and all other election materials turned in to Jason. (Kristi Kennedy added including the signs.)

Motion made by Leslie Shafer, and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kathy Terrones.

Motion approved by all Council Members present.

Volunteers for a voter verification committee were discussed. Some suggestions were Harold Brand, Maurice Kunkel, Mary McTaggart from the LLA Library and Yvonne Malikowski. Jason suggested that all of us contact one or two people that we think might be interested in volunteering for this and he would contact a few people he knows might be interested in this.

Then the business of a new election was discussed. Ken Shafer indicated that confidence in Diane King to run a new election had been lost. It was then stated that Diane's final responsibility as Election Chairperson is to prepare and give the final Election Report at the November Regular meeting. Jason stated that if we need to do a new election we would start from scratch as soon as the verification is over and we will start recruiting volunteers again. There will be a public announcement that we are looking for a volunteer for a new Election Committee Chair.

2. MOTION #2 to be ratified on 11/22/2011 – The deadline for the Names Verification Committee to have their job finished is by the November Regular public meeting on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011.

Motion made by Kathy Terrones and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Glenn Allen.

Motion approved by all Council Members present.

Kristi Kennedy asked the question as to who was going to coordinate getting the volunteers for the Names Verification Committee and getting the Street Index list to the volunteers. Jason Gonella replied that since he will be the one receiving the election materials if they turn it in by the deadline, which there is no guarantee that they will, anyone who gets someone to volunteer for the Verification Committee should relay that information to Jason. Then Kristi Kennedy wanted to know what the Council was going to do, if Diane King doesn't turn in the election materials on time. After Jason explained that he was a firm believer in being strict with the rules, he was not however an

aggressive person. He referred to the complaint letter against Earl Chapin that had been prepared months before he actually turned it in. However, Jason suggested that if Diane King refuses to turn over all the Election Committee materials as requested he would recommend a call to Sheriff White, saying we have this issue, this property belongs to the Town Council; she (meaning Diane King) refuses to turn it over. Then he asked who has a problem with that. Glenn answered that he did not have a problem with that, because technically it is the Council's property. Kristi Kennedy informed the Council that as a group we would need to vote that the Council is willing to file a police report as a theft against her. Jason asked if there was anyone who wanted to make that as a motion. Bob Horsewood commented he would be more inclined to say that if Diane doesn't turn over the election materials as requested then we are not certifying the election and just automatically have a new one. Kristi commented that Diane has more records than just this year's election, she has 4 years worth of Council election records, plus all the information that shows how to do the election, all the discs and all the forms, she's got everything. Bob said he was just focused on this year's ballots and the sign-in lists and did not realize she had all that information. Jason commented that not certifying the election is connected to verification; theft is connected to not turning in election materials as requested. They are different issues. Bob commented that it didn't occur to him that Mrs. King had 4 years worth of materials so with that point in mind, then yes he would agree.

3. MOTION #3 to be ratified on 11/22/2011 – Council will file with the Sheriff, a police report as theft against Diane King if she does not turn over all the Election Committee materials by the deadline of 6:00pm on Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Motion made by Leslie Shafer and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Glenn Allen.  
Motion approved by all Council Members present.

8. IN CONCLUSION – Jason Gonella stated that all these votes will have to be ratified as the first order of business at the Lake LA Rural Town Council meeting on Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011.
9. As there was no further business pertaining to the Election of 2011, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm by Jason Gonella.

Respectfully submitted

Kathy Terrones  
Recording Secretary  
Lake Los Angeles Rural Town Council  
11/22/2011

November 10, 2011

Lake Los Angeles Rural Town Council  
P.O. Box 500012  
Lake Los Angeles, CA 93550

RE: Election 2011

Dear Town Council Members;

On November 8, 2011, I went in to cast my vote for the Lake Los Angeles Rural Town Council. When I voted, I noticed that there was no 'Street Index'. The Street Index is used for two reasons; one, to verify that all people signing in are registered voters, and two, to make sure that no one is able to vote twice. When a person signs in to vote, their name is looked up on the Street Index and then highlighted so the pollster knows that they have already voted and no one else can vote with that name.

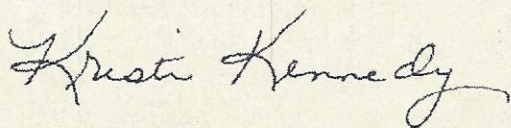
As is my right as a registered voter, I questioned the poll workers as to where the sheet was. I was told that they are verifying them on the computer disk. I said no, there is a sheet that you highlight the names so people cannot vote more than once, and you verify that they are registered voters. I was told it was on the computer. There was more conversation, but I cannot remember verbatim. I do know that when Jason asked if the election would have to be redone, I stated that if they cannot verify the names of the voters, it will.

I know that Cliff at least knew about the Street Index because he had called me on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 stating that they just came out of Staples and the print out didn't come out right. I told him then that you don't get the print out from Staples, it comes from the register/records office in Norwalk. They give you the printed sheets. He said we would have to drive to Norwalk the next day. I heard nothing after that.

I called the Election Information number (562) 466-1310 that same day to ask if they had changed anything and if using a disk at a polling place is accepted now. I was told that no, the disks can be manipulated, so they are never allowed as verification at the polling places.

What I am asking is that the Town Council first purchase a 'Street Index' and then find three people not associated with the election or the Town Council to sit down and verify all the voters on the sign in sheet. If everyone who voted is registered, then I see no reason not to certify the election. If there are names that are not on the list, then unfortunately, the election will have to be done again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristi Kennedy". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Kristi Kennedy