

SANDEEP VIHAR (AWHO) WELFARE & MAINTENANCE SOCIETY, GHS-79,  
SECTOR-20, PANCHKULA

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF RETURNING OFFICER WITH MEMBERS WHO HAD  
RAISED OBSERVATIONS REGARDING THE CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS ON 11  
AUG 2020

1. Paras 13 and 14 of Appendix A to the Society Bye Laws lay down the procedure to be followed on completion of elections. These read as under:-

“(a) Para 13. The full proceedings of election as per para 12 and declaration of results shall be completed on the same day.

(b) Para 14. All documents pertaining to elections shall be retained by MC in a sealed cover for four months.”

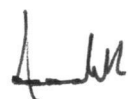
2. In accordance with these rules, the role of the Returning Officers ended on 09 Aug 2020, after announcement of election results and the documents thereafter were to be retained with the Management Committee.

3. On 10 Aug 2020, a letter was submitted by Col SK Chauhan, who had contested for the post of President with the subject as “Identification of Means of Voting During Management Committee Elections 2020-23”. The letter went on to make the following observations/ allegations against the Returning Officers and Independent Member:-

(a) That in 2017, a total of 177 voters had been cast; therefore the casting of 234 votes during Covid times was a surprise.

(b) That there appeared to be a doubt of clean exchange of ballot bundles during counting process or there may be casting of more than one ballot by some members.

(c) He also wanted the CCTV footage of the arrival of members who cast their votes.



(d) He also wrote that the Returning Officers should not visit the office alone unless accompanied by their representative, Col KN Jetly / Lt Col Kulwant Singh.

4. This letter implied that there was collusion of the three Returning Officers and the Independent Member in the presence of Sub Karan Singh and Sh Kuldeep Singh. The fact that he himself was present at the time of checking and sealing of the ballot box at the start of voting and the entire period from opening of the ballot boxes, counting of ballots till announcement of the results appears to have been forgotten. Amongst other demands, it was requested to re-check all ballots for the authenticity of signatures of the undersigned.

5. Simultaneously, another letter was handed over by Col S K Joshi seeking a recount of the votes polled by him in view of the close tie between the two candidates for the post of Treasurer. He authorized Lt Col Kulwant Singh to represent him in the recount.

6. As per the Society Bye Laws, the role of the Returning Officer(s) had come to an end and no action was needed. However, it was decided to assuage the doubts of the applicants.

7. On 11 Aug 2020, Col KN Jetly, as representative of Col SK Chauhan, was called to the Ante Room and asked to peruse the nominal roll of those who had voted. After scrutinizing the list, he confirmed that 234 members had voted and expressed satisfaction with the same.

8. Thereafter, undersigned requested Lt Col Kulwant Singh to come for recount of votes for the appointment of Treasurer. However, he expressed his inability as Col SK Joshi was in Station. Col SK Joshi was called and he, alongwith Col KN Jetly did the recount. Brig DK Mohan was also requested to attend on behalf of Maj HS Luddu, the other candidate.

9. Before start of the recount, Col SK Joshi was requested to also verify the signature of Returning Officer on each ballot paper while checking his votes.

10. Thereafter, Col SK Joshi checked each of the ballot sheets and confirmed that :-



(a) The total number of ballot sheets was 234.

(b) That all ballot sheets bore the signatures of the Returning Officer.

(c) The tally of votes for the appointment of Treasure was correct, as promulgated by Returning Officers and he accepted the same.

11. The accounting of the ballot papers was explained once again including the remaining 63 unused ballot papers available in sealed envelopes.

12. At the conclusion of the meeting, the ballot papers attendance and compiling sheets were sealed in the presence of all the above and handed over to General Secretary in accordance with the Bye laws.

#### Concluding Remarks

13. Col S K Chauhan has questioned the integrity of the Returning Officers, (Brig Parvinder Singh, Col Surjeet Singh and Col Sandeep Nautiyal), as well as the Independent member, (Brig VS Nijhawan). It is a fact that never in the history of the society has so many officers, with this level of service seniority, been involved in the electoral process. Every action of the Returning Officers was transparent and pre-election conferences were held with the candidates to explain the process as well as to receive their suggestions.

14. The Returning Officers and Independent member dismiss these unfounded and false allegations with all the contempt at their disposal.

15. These unfounded aspersions and mischievous remarks will definitely discourage self-respecting members from coming forward to conduct elections in future.

Date : 12 Aug 2020

Brig Parvinder Singh (Retd)