



# BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION BOARD MINUTES

March 5, 2010

Present: E. J. Miller, Chairman  
Tim Hutchinson, Secretary  
Bill Williams, Member  
Helen Peltier, Coordinator  
Kathy Mahmens, Staff  
Amy Huston, Guest  
Tabatha Hunter, Press  
Christine Southard, Clerk's Office  
Kris James, Clerk's Office  
Tena O'Brien, County Clerk  
Sidney Reynolds, Information Systems Director

TENA O'BRIEN  
CO. & PROBATE CLERK  
BENTON COUNTY, ARK

2010 APR -6 AM 8:38

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The media was notified.

Chairman E. J. Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Helen Peltier gave an update on the delivery of the new DREs. She stated they would be delivered this afternoon. We had already received 50 PEBs and 50 flashcards. We will start checking the new machines out next week.

Peltier stated that everything was on track for the Bentonville School Election. She stated that the paper ballots & media had been delivered. We will start L & A testing on March 15<sup>th</sup>. We will be using 30 of the new machines for the school election. The media will be advised of the public L & A testing.

Kris James stated that she would like to have the polling site order for the April 13<sup>th</sup> Bentonville Special School Election. Peltier stated that she would have it written up & give it to her at the ballot draw meeting.

Chairman Miller made a revision to the 10-003 order for early voting, the revision being DRE only at the precinct early voting satellite sites. Paper ballots will be offered at the county clerk's offices, early voting sites. A motion was made for the revision & all three commissioners voted yes.

Peltier stated that she has taken a stab at a way for establishing an objective for evaluating the success of early voting satellite sites. She said that there had been a 20% voter turnout for the primary election in 2008 and that the amount of voters that would be voting early in the Gravette area, would not justify the cost for the early voting site.

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A discussion ensued on keeping Gravette as an early voting site. Miller and Williams both stated that they wanted to keep Gravette as an early voting site.

Williams discussed what percentage of voting constitutes success in an early voting site and that we needed to be fair to all voters. Breaking down the cost per vote is not a good analysis for evaluating the success of an early voting site.

Hutchinson stated that we can use the number of active voters as criteria for future voting.

Peltier stated she wanted to set objectives on early voting & compare with the outcome. Williams stated that he and Peltier could work together and come up with a solution and set criteria for early voting. We can take a look at the primary and make a recommendation.

The discussion on early voting sites to set objectives was tabled until Peltier & Williams look into the information.

Peltier stated that we need computers, printers & internet access in early voting sites. Miller stated that we need 6 laptops.

Sidney Reynolds inquired how the wireless router worked with the air card.

Peltier stated that it was unreliable and that she had to 'babysit' it every morning.

Reynolds stated that we can do a physical DSL internet connection.

Williams asked Reynolds to find out if netbooks would work better & cheaper than laptops.

Miller asked Reynolds to come up with 6 laptops & printers. Reynolds stated that it costs about \$100 for a router & \$100 for an air card.

Miller asked Reynolds for a write-up on costs for the next meeting.

Williams said he would work with Reynolds on an estimate.

Peltier stated that we should have the equipment ordered by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Miller stated that early voting would run Monday through Saturday.

Peltier asked how we were going to staff early voting if we use the same workers as we do in the precincts. She stated that if we schedule the same people, we will have to take out with holding & FICA if salaries are over \$1,400. She stated that we would need a person to track how much people are working and that workers would be upset if with holdings were taken out of their pay checks, and not refunded if their total earnings do not exceed \$1,400.

Williams asked for a recommendation from Peltier on what to do about worker salaries. Peltier stated that she recommended capping worker's salaries.

Williams made a motion to cap workers salaries and motion was seconded by Hutchinson.

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Miller stated that it was up to the workers if they wanted to work 6 days and have with holding withheld from their pay checks.

Williams made a motion to let Peltier decide on salaries and a roster for early voting workers. Williams voted yes, Hutchinson voted yes & Miller abstained.

Kris James stated that training for early voting workers will come from the clerk's office.

Miller stated that a Ballot Draw would be held March 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM at the Election Commission Office. He would like all commissioners to attend. Order of ballot position drawing can either be done alphabetically or by filing order.

Peltier submitted a procedure for ballot draw for the commissioners to review.

Peltier stated that she will have 2 weeks after ballot draw to complete the May 18<sup>th</sup> ballot & submit it to ES&S.

Williams gave an update on the BOD printer. He stated that Peltier had been working on it and that he was trying to get BOD files for the April BNV School Election. As part of his community outreach program, he will be attending the voter registration rally at NWACC next week. There is no new report on the e-poll book.

Miller opened discussion on the 2009/2010 budget report. He stated that the Election Commission turned back \$208,880.49 into the general fund. He stated that the expenses for the new laptops and printers for early voting would be coming from small equipment or software accounts.

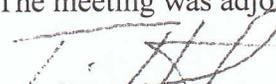
Miller stated that the Election Commission would be hosting a training session from the SBEC on March 30<sup>th</sup>. 20 to 30 people are expected to attend. He would like to see donuts and sandwiches offered to the attendees.

Christine Southard stated she is going to have a meeting next week for fire department special elections which will coincide with the May Primary Election.

Peltier stated that the dates and times for the 2010 Election Officials' training had been established. There are 7 different training dates, 6 to be held at the Bentonville Library & one at John Brown University in Siloam Springs. This will mean smaller classes – more one on one.

Miller stated that he wants all three commissioners at the first three classes.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 AM.

  
Respectfully submitted, Timothy Hutchinson, Secretary

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