



BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION BOARD MINUTES

April 2, 2010

Present: E. J. Miller, Chairman
Tim Hutchinson, Secretary
Bill Williams, Member
Helen Peltier, Coordinator
Kathy Mahmens, Staff
Amy Huston, Staff
Tabatha Hunter, Press
Kris James, County Clerk's office
Christine Southard, County Clerk's office

2010 APR 15 AM 8:15
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The media was notified.

Chairman E.J. Miller called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.

The minutes from the March 19 meeting were approved.

Helen Peltier stated that she has sent a letter notifying ES&S of the defects with the new DRE's. They informed her she would need to go thru their RMA procedure to replace the 5 frames and 8 batteries that need replacement. Peltier says she has no doubt that ES&S will make good on all defects. Miller suggested to withhold payment of invoice to ES&S till all corrections are made. Tim Hutchinson suggested that the Commission make a decision on payment closer to the time that the payment is due.

Peltier reports that all things are finished for the Bentonville School District Election. Early voting machines are being delivered this morning. Early voting starts April 6 for this election. All three Commissioners will be here the evening of April 13.

Helen Peltier, E.J. Miller, Kathy Mahmens and Amy Huston attended training for the trainer by the SBEC. Benton County hosted this training at the Election Commission. 6 other counties attended this training as well. Peltier stated that everyone received good information. Training for Benton County poll workers is to begin on April 17. There will be 6 training sessions at the Bentonville Public Library and 1 at John Brown University. Peltier stated that she is confident we will train over 400 workers in these sessions. Sessions were assigned to poll workers and they should call if they were unable to attend the session they were assigned. She also reported that there has been an enthusiastic response from the Sheriffs about the smaller session size.

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Chairman Miller reported that we will be running close on salary budgets due to the poll workers. He suggested that the budget be reviewed again mid-year. Bill Williams stated that part of the money could be moved from the County Clerk's office to pay for the workers the Commission is providing them for Early Voting.

Peltier suggested that the Commissioners make a decision if they want to bring in new DRE's in June or July. Williams suggested they wait till after the primary to reevaluate the budget. The budget will be reviewed again at the end of June.

Peltier reported that the IVo screen approvals are due April 12. The proofs were done for the paper ballots about a week ago. Williams suggested using the volunteers from NWACC to come and help proof screens. Election Commission must prepare absentee runoff ballot to be sent with the May primary ballot. Peltier will have that ballot prepared for the County Clerk's approval next week. Deadline is April 12.

Peltier informed the Commission that the Freewill Baptist Church Pct 59 has decided not to let the Election Commission use their facility this year. Peltier suggested that the Commission use the facility at precinct 55, Southside Church of Christ to house both precincts. She added that the ballot and IVo screen only says pct 59 and not the polling site name at this time. The decision was made to keep the two precincts separate just voting in one location and both use the facility.

Peliter presented a list of support requirements for all early voting satellite locations. Early voting will start May 3 and go thru the 18th in these locations. Per Peliter's support requirements, the staff is to provide

- Election Official recruiting, scheduling and payroll
- Election-specific materials and forms
- Troubleshooting voting machines

The Commissioners are to provide

- Site Setup including, computers and printers, internet access, voting machines, tables, chairs, signage and paper supplies
- Daily routing of Early Voting documents
- Troubleshooting of all other issues
- Post-Early Voting Activities including return of voting machines, computers, clean up of site and returning all EC items

The County Clerk's office is to provide troubleshooting for voter registration issues and assist the EC staff with Early Voting training.

Chairman Miller stated that in May of 2008 19,232 votes were cast. Of those 6,929 was paper. Miller feels there were a lot of paper because there were not enough machines and people have the "McDonald's drive thru mentality" about voting. Williams estimated paper ballots at about \$.32 a piece. Peltier brought up the point about the size of the Republican ballot is very large and will take a large amount of time for voters to complete. Miller stated that with proper training to the Sheriffs there should be less of a need for paper ballots. Hutchinson expressed his hesitant to reduce the number of paper ballots. He stated he believes that there will be a larger turn out in this primary than in the past. Considering the potential for long lines he does not want to see voters leave. Miller and Peltier will need to analyze data from May 2008 to decide the number of paper ballots. Hutchinson suggested do one analysis based on a 35% voter turn out. After review the Commission will revisit the amount of paper at the next meeting. And the County Clerk will provide data for Peltier to order absentee and Early Voting ballots.

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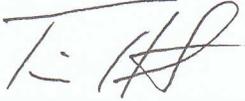
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The matter of consanguinity was reviewed for a possible conflict of interest and will be reviewed by the Commission at a later date.

Next meeting will be April 9 at 10 AM. April 16 is the next regular scheduled meeting at 10 AM to certify the April 13 Election.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 AM.



Respectfully submitted, Timothy Hutchinson, Secretary

Prepared by Amy Huston, Benton County Election Commission staff

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