



BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION BOARD MINUTES

August 20, 2010

Present: E. J. Miller, Chairman
Robert Balfe, Secretary
Bill Williams, Member
Kris James, County Clerk Office
Sharon Rose, Staff
Kim Umphres, Staff
Tom Sissom, Press
Carole Westby, Benton County Democrat Central Committee

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

2010 AUG 25 AM 8:08

FILED

The media was notified and Tom Sissom of the Benton County Daily Record attended and Carole Westby of the Benton County Democrat Central Committee attended.

Chairman E.J. Miller called the meeting to order 10:03 AM.

Miller asked if there were any corrections or additions to be made to the minutes of the previous meeting. With no changes, Miller made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2010 meeting and Mr. Robert Balfe second the motion.

Miller will comply with Tawnya Lewis's request for a detailed billing on the Avoca election. Miller gave Kris James the billing in which she will give to Tawnya Lewis. Miller also asked that Avoca pay the bill since it is 90 days in arrears.

Avoca asked Miller for anticipated charges for the up coming November election. Mr. Bill Williams stated that he thinks the election staff should be in charge of this matter and then be approved by the commissioners. Miller added he believed that where the information came from was important.

The September 21, 2010 School Election and NWACC Election is up-to-date with no problems per Kim Umphres.

Williams stated the G&A proposal of \$10,000 a flat rate to represent an estimate of what the G&A should be for this year. Also, stating to roll the cost into the school election to split eight (8) ways among the precincts for the purpose to recover Election Commission charges. Balfe agreed with Williams in this matter.

Miller has invited Mr. Richard McComas to attend the August 27, 2010 meeting to discuss the budget and proposed monies to be spent on electronic poll books. This is to be discussed at the close of the meeting. Williams stated that the Election staff should bring budget items to the commissioners and at that time open the floor for discussion.

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The November General Election ballot draw is scheduled for August 24, 2010 at 6:00 PM at the Election Commission Office. A copy of the press release was given to Kris James for her file.

Balfe requested more information on the electronic poll book because of the cost factor. What would be the projected savings to the clerk's office and the benefit? Williams stated the Election Commission would not bear the entire cost for the polling books.

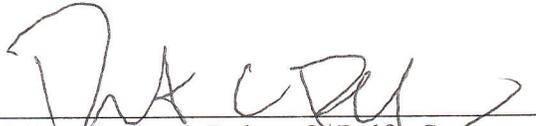
Williams stated there are too many polling places and need to consolidate districts to fifteen (15) instead of more than eighty (80). Commissioners need to decide on the number of polling places. He also said that anyone could vote anywhere all that was needed was a touch screen and a poll book. Balfe's had concerns with moving the polling sites because of busy lives, making it difficult to vote and people are use to voting at certain locations. This issue could cause voters not to vote. Another concern of Balfe's been with the cost of the poll books and would want to make sure it works. Williams will work up a cost benefit analysis on the electronic poll books. The greatest expense on the poll books would be the software.

Williams stated the commission needed to adopt a policy to work with activist organizations so they can have what they need to vote without interference.

Miller stated he received a letter from Ted Thomas of Conway AR. Thomas quoted 7-5-312 on the credentials of a poll worker. Miller asked Kris James for information on how many poll watchers were on the May 11th election. Thomas indicated that there were precincts that did not comply with that request. County Clerk's office provided a list of the poll watchers of the May 17th election. There was one poll watcher at that election. Miller will write a letter stating that we will comply with code 7-5-312.

Williams moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 AM and second by Bob Balfe.

Next meeting scheduled for August 24, 2010 for the ballot draw.



Respectfully submitted, Robert C. Balfe, Secretary

Prepared by Sharon Rose, Benton County Election Commission staff

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

FILED