



BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION BOARD MINUTES

August 27, 2010

Present: E. J. Miller, Chairman
Bob Balfe, Secretary
Amy Huston, Coordinator
Sharon Rose, Staff
Kim Umphres, Staff
Tom Sissom, Press
Kris James, County Clerk's Office
Christine Southard, County Clerk's Office
Russell O'Dell, Springdale, AR Guest
Richard McComas, Benton County Comptroller
Joe Chappelle, Rogers, AR Guest

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CO. & PROBATE CLERK
BENTON COUNTY, ARK

2010 SEP -3 PM 12:25

The media was notified and Tom Sissom of the Benton County Daily Record attended.

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

Miller stated that the minutes of the previous meeting were approved on Tuesday, August 24, 2010.

Amy Huston stated that the September 21, 2010 School Election and the NWACC Election were on schedule and no changes are to be made. L&A Testing will start on the Iivotronics Monday, August 30, 2010.

Miller announced there were additions to the ballot draw position from Tuesday, August 24th.

Miller asked Amy Huston for an update on the electronic poll book. Huston stated it is in progress to get a pilot. There would not be a pilot for the September election. She is hoping to have a pilot for the November election. Richard McComas questioned if the pilot goes well would it be purchased in 2010 or 2011. Miller stated that there was no cost with the pilot program. Miller also stated that the pilot would be ideal for the run-off election in November.

Huston stated ES&S and Hart were the two (2) companies that offer electronic poll books. Bob Balfe asked if there were other companies that could be considered. Huston asked Christine Southard if she knew of any other company. She did not know of any other company. Richard McComas asked Huston she has asked ES&S if other software was compatible to our machines. More research is to be done on the electronic poll book. Balfe asked why ES&S are dragging their feet. No answer was known.

Russell O'Dell, past commissioner, addressed the news article about changing polling sites from 80 or more to 15. He requested from the commissioners for clarification. Miller stated

that Bill Williams made a commit on wanting to reduce the polling sites. Miller said that Williams made the comment but there has not been a formal discussion with the three (3) commissioners to reduce precincts to 15. Miller said in his opinion that fifteen (15) precincts will not be the number. It will be much larger. There are currently 83 precincts numbers and 65 precincts locations presently. The cost is approximately \$3000. to open a site. Miller stated that the commission is considering consolidation but the number is unknown at this point.

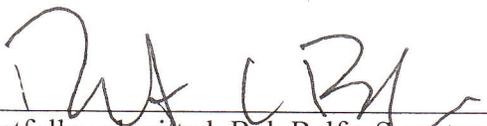
O'Dell mentioned he is not against consolidation but against drastic consolidation. O'Dell also asked for clarification on the IvoTronics. Miller stated the Election Commission has 262 Ivo's and an advantage that the machines can be programmed with a chip for fewer errors. The votes can not be lost in an Ivo but with paper ballots can be damaged, lost, get wet, etc. Balfe told O'Dell that each step is with the voter in mind. Balfe thought a smaller number of locations would help with early voting and vote any location. Balfe still wants hard facts on reducing the polling sites and what would be the savings. Balfe said there are benefits to changing but there is some risk. The Election Commission has the authority to set polling sites except for school elections. The school election can request certain site locations but the general election is dictated.

Pope County is requesting to borrow a 650 Machine to see how ballots would perform. They are currently hand counting the ballots. McComas suggested that Huston check with the County property manager to make sure it would be OK. The Election Commission has three (3) 650 Machines. Until further information is known, it was tabled.

McComas reviewed figures for the upcoming budget. A draft was distributed and Balfe noted that it was the first time he had seen the draft. Miller added that Balfe was given a rough draft of the budget at the August 20th meeting. A discussion on line items was presented by McComas.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 31, 2010.


Respectfully submitted, Bob Balfe, Secretary

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Prepared by Sharon Rose, Benton County Election Commission staff