



BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION BOARD MINUTES

February 23, 2011

Present: Bill Williams, Chairman
E J Miller, Member
Amy Huston, Coordinator
Sharon Rose, Staff
Kim Umphres, Staff
Tena O'Brien, County Clerk
Kris James, County Clerk's Office

*Not yet approved
Per. Election Commission
Meeting held 2/23/11*

TENA O'BRIEN
CO. CLERK
BENTON COUNTY, ARK

2011 JUN -1 PM:12:45

WILLIAMS

Also present were G S Millager, Mike Sevak, Barbara Miller, Barbara McCoy, Bob Clinard, Richard McComas, Ernie Gudgens, and Bob Mahmens, Kathy Mahmens, Chris & Leigh Nogy.

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

Chairman Bill Williams called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

Chairman Williams recognized honored attendees.

Williams commented for the past two (2) years being on the commission that the commission strives for perfection. The commission always tries to do their best. Everything is always subject to challenge in elections. As a secondary thought, Williams stated it cost \$300 - \$400 to have a commission meeting. Since there were numerous meetings last year, the commission overspent the budget. Williams stated he only calls meetings when there was a particular need from the statue. Williams and Miller instituted a policy on behalf of the commission to only charge \$25 (which is statutory minimum) to sign documents.

Williams stated to Sevak that he was not qualified as an election commissioner. Williams continued by stating Sevak signed the oath of office as commissioner on January 3, 2011. The office of minority party does not expire until January 15, 2011, which is stated in the statue 7-4-102.

Sevak questioned Williams on where in the past minutes it was stated that a new chairman was named. Williams stated it was in the minutes from last year. Williams asked Sevak to send him an email with his questions and he would be happy to respond.

Williams continued that the statue 7-4-105 states that a county official shall hold office until a successor are qualified. As of this meeting, Bob Balfe is still a member of the Election Commission.

Williams stated the lack of guidance. The commission has been conducted on custom. Williams stated that he and Miller addressed the manner of signing orders. In the past, commissioners would come in and sign. The Freedom of Information Act requires the signings to be conducted in a meeting. An example given from the previous week where Miller calling a meeting to be held. Miller called the staff but it takes two commissioners to call a meeting. Williams stated he has asked the Attorney General for options' on several issues. This will give clarity to unsolved problems.

Williams requested if there is other business to be discussed by the staff or commissioners, notify him by email and he will respond to the email and sent a copy of the response to the notification list. At that time, Williams said if anyone who was not on the list and wanted to added to let the staff know. A meeting will be called when a response from the Attorney General's office is received.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:19 AM.

Respectfully submitted, Bill Williams, Chairman

Prepared by Sharon Rose, Benton County Election Commission Staff

2011 JUN -1 PM 12:45
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