

BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

E. J. Miller
Chairman

M.W. Sevak
Secretary



Bill Williams
Member

Amy Huston
Coordinator

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MINUTES OF THE BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

July 13, 2011

Commission members present: E. J. Miller, Chairman, Bill Williams, Member, and Mike Sevak, Secretary

Others present: County Clerk Tena O'Brien, Kris James, Christine Southard, Sharon Rose, Kim Umphres, Duane Neal, Cathy Bolte, Robbyn Tumey, and Gwen Millager

Media: Tom Sissom, Benton County Daily Record

Chairman E. J. Miller called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Minutes:

Chairman Miller asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of June 29, 2011. Commissioner Mike Sevak made a motion that the minutes from the June 29, 2011 meeting be approved as submitted, seconded by Chairman Miller. Motion carried by voice vote. (2 yeas, 1 abstain: Williams)

Public Comment:

Gwen Millegar commented on the information she was given for the upcoming school election. Chairman Miller asked County Clerk Tena O'Brien about putting a public notice in the newspaper for the school election. The County Clerk stated that she will do the publication for the ballot draw. Commissioner Williams stated that the schools are required to publish a public notice for the election. County Clerk O'Brien stated that she made copies of the school election laws and Arkansas State Statute §6-14-109 sets out who is responsible for the publication. County Clerk O'Brien stated she will have the ballot draw published on July 19, 2011, which meets the three (3) day requirement prior to the ballot draw. Chairman Miller stated the ballot draw is scheduled for July 27, 2011, which is the next election commission meeting. He reiterated that the meeting is scheduled for 11:00 A.M. and that the write-in candidate filing closes at 12:00 P.M. Chairman Miller stated that he had asked County Clerk O'Brien in a previous meeting, if the clerk's office would call the commissioners and let them know if there were any additional filings. County Clerk Tena O'Brien stated that someone would call them.

Old Business:

- (A) Resubmission of Poll Workers listing from May, 2010 Primary Election: County Clerk Tena O'Brien prepared a letter to SBEC Director Susie Storms along with copies of the summary report for the resubmission of poll workers for the May Primary and June run-off elections. Chairman Miller asked when it was mailed. County Clerk O'Brien stated she brought the letter for Chairman Miller to sign and that it would be mailed today, July 13, 2011. Chairman Miller asked if there were any objections. There were no objections.

(B) Annual School Election (September 20, 2011): Chairman Miller thanked Ms. Gwen Millager for her comments. County Clerk Tena O'Brien stated that Kim Umphres prepared a Progress Report on the School Election for September 20, 2011. Chairman Miller briefly went over the report. County Clerk Tena O'Brien asked Chairman Miller, if there were no contested races, would there be just paper ballots for this election? County Clerk O'Brien stated that her office has heard from all the school districts and none of them are asking for a millage increase. Commissioner Williams stated it would be more economical to use Ivo's instead of paper ballots. Chairman Miller stated there would have to be some paper ballots because some voters insist on voting with paper ballots even though there are no issues. Commissioners Williams stated the last turnout was 2.6% which is approximately 2,600 votes. Commissioner Williams stated the investment in paper ballots is not huge. Chairman Miller agreed and stated that the Ivo gives the opportunity for flexibility. County Clerk O'Brien stated there would have to be paper ballots for absentee voting. Chairman Miller asked County Clerk O'Brien if absentee ballots are mailed overseas. County Clerk O'Brien responded, yes. Christine Southard stated anyone that has made a yearly application to receive absentee ballots will be mailed an absentee ballot. She stated that usually military voters do not request school election ballots. Chairman Miller reported that Donna Bisett is deceased and asked if she could be removed from the voter list. Kris James stated she would take care of this matter. Commissioner Williams stated that it is shameful that out of the counties real estate tax, the schools draw more than 80% and there was only a 2.6% turnout of voters who were interested in how the monies would be spent and who represents their interest.

New Business:

Commissioner Sevak asked if on the mileage form that the County Clerk prepared, if the poll workers precinct location and address could be added. Commissioner Sevak stated that at the last meeting he questioned some of the mileage claimed in the last election. Chairman Miller asked County Clerk O'Brien if this information could be added to the mileage form. Clerk O'Brien responded, yes. Christine Southard stated that some of the sheriff's pick-up election materials for several locations. Chairman Miller stated it would have to be noted on the mileage form if a sheriff goes to more than one location to deliver or pick-up equipment. Chairman Miller asked Christine Southard if this was the week for the commissioners to file their mileage. Christine Southard responded that it is next week.

Other Business:

None

Announcements:

Election Commission meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2011 at 11:00 A.M.

Adjournment:

Chairman Miller made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Williams. The meeting adjourned at 9:21 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Sevak, Secretary
Prepared by Sharon Rose, Election Commission Staff