

# *Benton County Election Commission*

John M. Brown, Jr.  
Chairman

M.W. Sevak  
Secretary



Robbyn Tumey  
Member

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## MINUTES OF THE BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

September 20, 2011

Commission members present: John Brown, Jr., Mike Sevak, and Robbyn Tumey

Others present: Christine Southard, Sharon Rose, Dana Ferguson, and Duane Neal,

Media: Tom Sissom, Benton County Daily Record

Commissioner John Brown called the meeting to order at 2:05 P.M. and welcomed everyone.

### **Minutes:**

Chairman Brown asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of September 1, 2011. Commissioner Sevak made a motion that the minutes from the September 1, 2011 meeting be approved as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Tumey. Motion carried by voice vote.

### **Public Comment:**

None

**Old Business:** Chairman Brown moved the Discussion Of Redistricting from New Business to Old Business.

- (A) **Discussion of Proposed JP Redistricting:** Duane Neal stated that he spoke with Dana Ferguson and she has completed two (2) redistricting maps. Duane also spoke with Jeff Hawkins and stated that they are on the agenda for the Quorum Court Meeting on Thursday, September 22, 2011. At that time a proposal will be presented and the JP's will be able to comment. Duane stated that Jeff Hawkins has completed one draft which was furnished to Dana and a second draft to be completed today. A meeting is set with Duane, Jeff Hawkins, Chairman Brown and Commissioner Tumey on Wednesday, September 21, 2011 to discuss the maps. This information will be on a disc to be presented to the Quorum Court. Duane asked the commissioner's if there should be more than two (2) proposals. Commissioner Tumey stated two (2) proposals should be sufficient. Duane will ask Jeff and Dana to make the presentation to the Quorum Court and answer questions. The Redistricting Committee will work with Dana and Jeff if changes are to be made to the maps. A completed map will be presented to the commissioners and stated recommendations of the committee. Commissioner Tumey asked

Duane about open seats in the JP Districts. Duane stated there will be at least three (3) open seats county wide. Commissioner Tumey asked Duane if the maps were within the (+ or – 5%) limits. Dana stated that all of her maps were within (+ or – 5%) limits. Duane stated that the criteria has been met and the two (2) approaches will give a good contrast. Chairman Brown thanked Duane and Dana for their work on this project.

Chairman Brown asked what the deadline for the maps to be completed was. Dana stated the maps have to be filed by January but would like to have them completed by October. Once the commission approves a map there will be a 30 day window to object to the Circuit Clerk. After that time, it will be published within 30 days. Chairman Brown asked how it will affect voting precincts. Dana stated she would check. Dana also stated that the only problem waiting until January would be that there are over 30,000 voter records to be changed.

**New Business:**

(A) Certification of the Official Results for City of Rogers Special Election, September 13, 2011: Chairman Brown made a motion to certify the Official Results for the City Of Rogers Special Election. No objections were voiced.

(B) Annual School Election (September 20, 2011): Sharon Rose stated that there were two amended orders to be signed: (1) changing the polling officials for Precinct No. 43/44 and; (2) changing the officials to process, count, and canvass absentee ballots for the September 20, 2011 Annual School Election.

**Other Business:**

Commissioner Tumey presented a resolution for the commissioner's approval to have paper ballots in early voting locations for all elections and obtainable for future elections stating with the November 8, 2011 election. Chairman Brown asked for a discussion. There being no discussion, all members voted in favor of adopting the resolution. (3 yeas).

**Adjournment:**

Chairman Brown made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Tumey. The meeting adjourned at 2:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Sevak, Secretary

Prepared by Sharon Rose, Election Commission Staff