

Benton County Election Commission

John M. Brown, Jr.
Chairman

M.W. Sevak
Secretary



Robbyn Tumey
Member

Office (479) 271-1013 - Fax (479) 271-1019
election@co.benton.ar.us

MINUTES OF THE BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

October 17, 2011

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

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

Media: Tom Sissom, Benton County Daily Record

Commissioner John Brown called the meeting to order at 11:50 A.M. and welcomed everyone.

Minutes:

Chairman Brown asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Minutes of the September 28, 2011 meeting. Commissioner Sevak made a motion that the minutes from the September 28, 2011 meeting be approved as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Tumey. Motion carried by voice vote.

Chairman Brown stated that he would like to move Item: C to the first item on the Agenda so that Jeff Hawkins can address the commission.

New Business:

- (A) Adoption of the report of the Apportionment of Justice of the Peace Districts prepared by Jeff Hawkins, NW Regional Planning Commissioner: Jeff Hawkins stated at the October 3, 2011 meeting he would meet with County Clerk, Tena O'Brien to file the report of the Apportionment of Justice of the Peace Districts. Jeff stated that the map title changed to the Apportionment of Quorum Court Districts. The commissioners were asked to sign and date the title change. All the information was the same with the exception of the House and Senate boundaries lines which explains how the boundaries and lines were created. The report is discussed in the state statues about Quorum Court Redistricting. The description used for the maps and references to boundaries and voting districts that the census counted. The report is to be filed by the commission with the clerk's office. At that time, the clerk's office has fifteen (15) days to file a publication of public notice for adoption. There is a thirty (30) day waiting period for the public to challenge the commissions redistricting plan.

After the thirty (30) day waiting period, the County Clerk, Tena O'Brien, has seven (7) days to file with the Secretary of State's Office. Jeff stated one problem, which is the description of what part of voting district 27 is in voting district 10 and what part is in voting district 15. Jeff stated that the map is a guide and is the final authority. Duane Neal asked Jeff if his reference to voting districts and precincts were the same. Jeff agreed they were the same. The reference to the voting districts is based on the public log and the Redistricting of the Apportionment Information which includes the census maps, tracts, blocks, and voting districts which are all permanent records with the Census Bureau. Christine Southard asked Jeff if all the boundaries follow actual and physical lines or following imaginary lines. Jeff stated that there are some imaginary lines but most are actual boundaries. Chairman Brown made a motion to accept the maps as provided by Jeff Hawkins, the Justice of the Peace of Redistricting with an addendum which may change District 10 and 15 to include more streets to change the report, seconded by Commissioner Sevak. Chairman Brown asked for discussion. There being none, the motion carried by voice vote. Chairman Brown thanked Jeff Hawkins for his work. Jeff asked the commissioners to sign and date the map.

Public Comment:

None

Old Business:

None

New Business:

- (A) Certification of the Official Results for the Annual School Run-Off Election, October 11, 2011: Chairman Brown made a motion to certify the Official Results for the Annual School Run-Off Election held on October 11, 2011. No objections were voiced.
- (B) Amended Order Changing the name of Christian Center to Hope Church of NW Arkansas (Pcts 38 & 65): Chairman Brown made a motion to change the name of the Christian Center to Hope Church of NW Arkansas (Pcts 38 & 65). No objections were voiced.
- (C) Discussion of moving Bentonville First Christian Church (Pct 37): Chairman Brown stated that the church is asking for the Election Commission to move due to their daycare center. Commissioner Sevak suggested moving across the street to the Police Station. Commissioner Sevak stated if the room was not being used, it would be a good location. It was decided by the commissioners that further discussion is necessary and tabled this matter to be discussed at a later date.
- (D) Discussion of moving Highfill Community Building (Pct 19) to Highfill Civic Center: Commissioner Sevak stated that the location is on a corner. Chairman Brown asked if the City of Highfill agreed to let the Election Commission use the Civic Center. Sharon Rose stated that the precinct sheriff, Teresa Reams, stated that it would be more convenient for the voters to park on the side and easier for them to enter and exit the location. Chairman Brown asked Sharon to call the City of Highfill to inquire the possibilities for the Election Commission to use the Civic Center and report at the next meeting.

Other Business:

Commissioner Sevak stated there had been discussion on consolidation of some precincts. He asked if this could be tabled for the present due to the November 8, 2011 election and then the Primary Election in 2012. Commissioner Sevak asked to postpone this discussion until 2013 because of the time it will take. Christine Southard stated because of redistricting some of the precincts will have to be changed. Chairman Brown requested to have more discussion at the next meeting.

Announcements:

None

Adjournment:

Chairman Brown made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Tumey. The meeting adjourned at 12:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Sevak, Secretary

Prepared by Sharon Rose, Election Commission Staff