

# BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

John M. Brown, Jr.  
Chairman

Russell J. Anzalone  
Secretary



Robbyn Tumey  
Member

Kim Dennison  
Election Coordinator

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## MINUTES OF THE BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

March 26, 2012

Commission members present: John Brown, Jr., Robbyn Tumey, and Russell Anzalone

Others present: Christine Southard, Kim Dennison, Sharon Rose, Gwen Millager, and Mike Sevak

Media: Tom Sissom, Benton County Daily Record

Chairman Brown asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of January 25, February 1, February 17, March 2, March 7, and March 8, 2012. There being none, Chairman Brown made a motion that the minutes from the January 25, February 1, February 17, March 2, March 7, and March 8, 2012 meetings be approved as submitted. Motion carried by voice vote.

Kim Dennison, Election Coordinator, stated she has added two (2) additional training dates which is April 9 and April 11, 2012 from 9 A.M. to 11 A.M. for the Preferential Primary Election to be held on May 22, 2012. Kim asked the commissioner's if a decision had been made to add Prairie Creek as an early voting site. Commissioner Tumey thought it would be a good idea to add Prairie Creek as an early voting site, and asked how many voters there were in Prairie Creek. Christine Southard responded 2,704 voters. Commissioner Tumey asked Christine what percentage of voters would vote. Christine responded in the primary she projected 32%.

Kim asked Commissioner Anzalone about Iberia Bank and Commissioner Anzalone stated that he would like for the election commission staff to look at the site before committing to the location. The election commission staff agreed to look at the location after the meeting.

Kim stated she is working with Darryl Marks from the IT Department, putting a poll worker application on the Benton County website.

### **New Business:**

- A. Sign the Certification of Approval for the Rogers and City of Siloam Springs School Board Rezoning: Chairman Brown made a motion to accept the rezoning for the City of Rogers and City of Siloam Springs School Districts. Chairman Brown asked for discussion. With no discussion, motion carried by voice vote.
- B. Review & Certification of the Preferential Primary and Non-Partisan Judicial General Election ballots: Chairman Brown stated that the commissioners need to approve the ballots for the Preferential Primary and Non-Partisan Judicial General Election. Chairman Brown stated that the

Political Practice Pledges were completed by the candidates showing their names as they were to appear on the ballots. The commissioners reviewed the primary election ballots for the Republican, Democrat, and Non-Partisan Judicial races. Christine stated that because of the boundary lines of the cities, the county's political units, judicial districts, and state legislative districts, Benton County will have 274 different ballots for the election.

Commissioner Tumey asked Christine if the annexation ordinances for Bella Vista would be posted in the precincts. Christine responded, yes.

Chairman Brown stated that the commission needs to decide on the number of paper ballots to order for the Preferential Primary and Non-Partisan Judicial General election. Commissioner Tumey stated that she took figures from the Primary election in May, 2008 and 28,870 votes were cast with 10,415 election day paper ballots. Commissioner Tumey stated that is an average of 37.50%. At that time, there was no early paper ballots offered because there were only a total of 53 paper ballots during early voting. Christine stated that paper ballots are not available at off-site locations, but paper ballots were offered at the clerk's office. Commissioner Tumey stated that if paper ballots were available at off-site locations the percentage would be higher. Mathematically, there would have been between 55–57% of paper ballots voted. Commissioner Tumey stated that if it is a security problem, the commission needs to discuss the situation. Christine responded that: (1) it is a safety issue, and (2) because of the number of splits. Chairman Brown stated that he was not satisfied with securing paper ballots at off-site locations.

Gwen Millager stated that she always remembered large early voting in Bella Vista. She thinks the commission should have more paper ballots. Commissioner Tumey stated that her perception when visiting polling sites on election day is procedurally slow. It is slow voting electronic and slow checking-in. The process of checking-in and finding the correct ballot does take time. Commissioner Tumey stated that the lines to vote are too long and her thoughts were to facilitate more paper ballots to help move the lines faster. Kim Dennison commented that the check-in process is slow. Regardless, if the voter is getting a paper or electronic ballot, they must check-in with the book judge before they are allowed to proceed. Commissioner Tumey asked Kim if there was a way to speed that process. Kim stated that at the larger precincts, there are several books and book judges to make the process faster. Commissioner Tumey stated that she feels that the public should be more aware that paper ballots are available. Gwen Millager asked Commissioner Tumey could there be more check-in lines. Commissioner Tumey responded that if there were two (2) lines; one for paper, and one for electronic and if the electronic line became longer, the voters would move to the paper ballot line, and you run the risk of running out of paper ballots. Christine stated in her opinion, early voting in the Bentonville Clerk's office, goes very well and has had only praises in the process compared to polling sites on election day. Christine stated that the problem does not lie with early voting but Election Day. Training may not be adequate, and due to the fact that poll workers only deal with voting two or three times a year. Christine stated that a poll worker cannot go through a line and ask if a voter wants to vote paper because they have to receive their ballot in the order in which they come into the polling site. The only individuals that are allowed to be moved to the front of a line are individuals with disabilities and who are not able to stand. Individuals must go to the book judge then the ballot judge. Chairman Brown stated that paper ballots are secure in precincts, but it takes time to get the correct ballot to a voter. Kim stated that the voting process has to follow the proper path with voters being directed past the book judge, clerk, and ballot judge at each polling location. At the time the voter reaches the ballot judge, they will be asked if they want to vote by paper or electronic.

The commission asked Christine to estimate how many paper ballots the county will need based on the use of paper ballots in the 2008 primary, with an upper limit based on the number of paper ballots the state will reimburse the county for. Christine presented a spreadsheet which gave the commissioners an estimate but she needed to have a final count as the deadline to turn this information to ES&S was today. Commissioner Tumey asked Christine if there were a minimum

number of ballots to have printed with ES&S. Christine responded that to her knowledge there was no minimum order for paper ballots with ES&S, but with Absolute Printing Solutions there were a minimum number of paper ballots, which would be negotiable. Christine stated she used figures to estimate the number of paper ballots by a percentage used in 2008 Primary. Commissioner Anzalone had concerns with security of the paper ballots at early voting off site locations and wanted to know why the clerk's offices were the only place to get the paper ballots. Christine stated that it was advertised that paper ballots would only be available at the county clerk's offices. Commissioner Tumey stated that the commission has a BOD and would be able to print ballots if needed for any precinct. Commissioner Tumey wanted to know what amount of paper ballots the State would pay. Christine responded that counties who primarily vote by voting machines are eligible to receive reimbursement from the state for a number of ballots equivalent to one and one half times the number of electors voting on paper ballots at the last preceding comparable election, up to a maximum of one half of the total number of electors voting at the last preceding comparable election.

**Old Business:**

Chairman Brown made a motion to approve the billing for the Gravette School District Special Election which was held February 14, 2012 in the amount of \$8,042.37, seconded by Commissioner Tumey. Motion carried by voice vote.

Chairman Brown stated he received a telephone call stating that the certified copies for the Gravette School District Special Election had not been received. Christine responded that the original certified copies had been mailed the day after certification to Superintendent Andrea Kelley.

Sharon Rose stated at the last commissioners meeting, there was discussion on the lighting at New Life Christian Church (Pct 22) in Centerton. The church was asked if they had additional lighting to be used on Election Day. The commissioners authorized the election staff to look into purchasing two (2) pole/floor lamps.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Adjournment:**

Chairman Brown made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Anzalone. The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell J. Anzalone, Secretary  
Prepared by Sharon Rose  
Benton County Election Commission