

BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

John M. Brown, Jr.
Chairman

Russell J. Anzalone
Secretary



Robbyn Tumey
Member

Kim Dennison
Coordinator

Office (479) 271-1049 - Fax (479) 271-5749
kmdennison@co.benton.ar.us or srose@co.benton.ar.us

MINUTES OF THE BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

December 4, 2012

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

Others present: Kim Dennison and Sharon Rose

Media: Tom Sissom, Benton County Daily Record

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. and welcomed everyone

Chairman Brown stated that two (2) winner letters from the General Election held November 6, 2012 and the General Run-Off Election held November 27, 2012 had erroneously not been signed. The commissioners signed and mailed the letters.

Chairman Brown stated that County Clerk Tena O'Brien asked if the commissioners would sign additional Certificate of Election certificates for those that did not have them at the time of the swearing-in ceremony. Chairman Brown and Commissioner Anzalone signed the blank certificates, but Commissioner Tumey was not comfortable in signing certificates that were not completed.

New Business:

- A. Discussion of Letter to be sent to the Finance Committee on December 4, 2012: Commissioner Tumey stated that in 2007-2008 she made a presentation to the Quorum Court on paper ballots vs. machines. She stated that she had reviewed this research and called Melinda Allen, Election Director from Pulaski County, to find out that 160,000 votes were cast in the General Election held on November 6, 2012 and of those 160,000 votes' casts, approximately 83,000 were for early voting with nine (9) polling locations. Commissioner Tumey stated that the Pulaski County Election Commission operates on \$1.9 million budget for large election years and \$900,000 for off voting years. In addition, the Pulaski County Election Commission operates with six (6) full-time employees and that Sebastian County has two (2) full-time and two (2) part-time commission employees, while Benton County Election Commission has two (2) full-time and one (1) part-time employees. Commissioner Tumey added that Pulaski and Sebastian Counties use the Precinct Counter to tally paper ballots. Commissioner Tumey stated that Melinda Reynolds told her that the M-100 has a programming mechanism required by state law, to kick the paper ballot out if there is an over vote and it also takes the under vote into discount. Commissioner Anzalone asked for clarification. Commissioner Tumey stated that there is a programming key to be checked when

programming the M-100 and preparing it to be put into service that will count an under vote, but will return an over vote. At that time, the voter has an opportunity to have their paper ballot “cancelled” and follow the spoiled ballot procedures. If the voter does not want to “cancel” their ballot, it is put into a ballot box located at the bottom of the M-100 to be hand counted on its return to the Election Commission office. Commissioner Tumey continued by stating that if the M-100 breaks down, there is a security mechanism in which the voter can insert the paper ballot into a slot that is separated from the counted ballots to be tabulated at the commission office.

Commissioner Tumey stated that Pulaski County uses the IvoTronic machines for Early Voting, but on Election Day they use only one (1) ADA IvoTronic machine per site and paper ballots. Election Coordinator Kim Dennison asked Commissioner Tumey if Pulaski County programs their own media. Commissioner Tumey responded, yes. Commissioner Tumey stated that no monies had been invested in equipment for the Benton Election Commission to keep up with the growth in the county’s voting population from roughly 80,000 in 2006 to approximately 115,000 in 2012.

Chairman Brown asked Commissioner Tumey how Pulaski County determines the amount of paper ballots to order. Commissioner Tumey responded that Pulaski County calculates the number of paper ballots by 60% of the eligible registered voters within a precinct; then subtracts a percentage calculated by the estimated number of early voters.

Commissioner Anzalone asked Commissioner Tumey the cost for the M-100 precinct counters. Commissioner Tumey responded about \$5,000 each and that approximately eighty (80) M-100 precinct counters would have to be ordered, if polling locations increase from fifty-seven (57) to sixty-five (65) or seventy (70).

Commissioner Tumey stated that the Election Commission should extend an invitation to the Justices of the Peace to visit the commission office to see the operation and have any of their questions answered.

Other Business:

Commissioner Tumey stated that the Election Commission’s telephone should have a module to add a directory to dial a specific number for an individual or if a voter would like to know where they should vote especially on Election Day. Chairman Brown requested that Kim to talk to Sidney Reynolds, Director of the Information Systems Department about adding a directory like this to the telephone system.

Chairman Brown asked Kim if the Daily Record newspaper was being delivered to the commission office. Kim responded, no. The commissioners agreed to have the paper delivered daily as articles about the Election Commission are printed and could be put in a file. Commissioner Tumey made a motion to have the Benton County Daily Record delivered to the Election Commission office daily, seconded by Commissioner Anzalone. Motion approved by voice vote.

Election Coordinator, Kim Dennison reported that the ballot jogger she ordered had arrived and is ready for the next election. She also stated that she had ordered an automatic numbering stamp that will be used for Ballot On Demand ballots.

Old Business:

None

Public Comment:

None

Announcements:

None

Adjournment:

Chairman Brown made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Anzalone. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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