

BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

John M. Brown, Jr.
Chairman

Russell J. Anzalone
Secretary



Robbyn Tumey
Member

Kim Dennison
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MINUTES OF THE BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

June 20, 2013

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

Others present: Kim Dennison, Sharon Rose, Mary Ley, Kathy Breed, and Galen Havner

Media: Tom Sissom, Benton County Daily Record

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and welcomed everyone.

New Business:

- A. Discussion of Polling Sites for the Annual School Election – Bentonville School Superintendent Michael Poore: Chairman Brown stated that Bentonville School Superintendent Michael Poore was not present and that Mary Ley, District Communications Director with the Bentonville School Board would represent Mr. Poore. Ms. Ley thanked the Election Commission for having the Bentonville School Board present to discuss the polling sites for the upcoming Annual School Election to be held September 17, 2013. Ms. Ley stated that the school board has taken the security and safety as their number one priority and have met with the school principals requesting to use their schools as polling sites. Ms. Ley stated that the administration building is one potential polling site, along with Barker Middle School, Ardis Ann Middle School, and Cooper Elementary School. Ms. Ley stated that the district wanted to make the voting more convenient for parents and that these schools were chosen with safety in mind to include police officers and deputies to work on Election Day. Ms. Ley stated that the school gymnasiums would be used for voting and is accessible without voters having to go through the school hall, which will minimize any encounters with the students. Ms. Ley stated that parking would not be an issue at any of these locations. Ms. Ley stated that the school board has not received any negative comments about using the schools as polling sites. Chairman Brown stated that Sharon Rose, on the Election Commission staff, received one call from a woman concerned that the use of the schools, could favor pro-millage voters. Dana Caler Voter Supervisor stated that the County Clerk's office has had a call stating that the clerk's office was trying to favor a certain group of voters. Chairman Brown asked Ms. Ley if the schools could be used for other elections. Ms. Ley stated that the superintendent was in favor of using the schools for major elections, but at this time he would not be in favor of using the schools for every election.

Commissioner Anzalone stated that he has concerns with the children's safety going to school in the morning and leaving in the afternoon. This would cause voters a lengthier time to park and vote. Dana asked Ms. Ley when the children change classes, would they be allowed to be in the polling sites. Mr. Galen Havner, Director of the Human Resource Department, stated that the children would not have access to this area.

Commissioner Tumey stated that registered voters would have to be notified of any changes and that could create confusion and that the County Clerk will have to send out a notice, telling people for this election you're voting here, then in the next election they'll have to send out another notice, saying you're voting somewhere else, and this is a problem. Ms. Ley stated that the school board would use social media sites, send letters to parents, and pay for advertising in more traditional media including newspapers and television. Chairman Brown added that changes in voting locations would contribute to problems, no matter what steps are taken to notify voters.

Chairman Brown stated that Arkansas law §6-14-106 requires the commission to consult with the school district regarding the number of polling sites to designate for each school district and the location of the polling sites. Polling sites for school elections shall be established by a majority vote of the members of the County Board of Election Commissioners. Chairman Brown thanked Mary Ley and Galen Havner for their presentation. Chairman Brown stated that he and Commissioners Anzalone and Tumey will discuss the information presented, but additional information will be necessary from the county clerk's office. Chairman Brown stated that the Election Commission and the county clerk's office will be working on precinct boundaries, to bring precincts into compliance with a new state law limiting voting precincts to 3,000 voters. Commissioner Tumey stated that she was reluctant to change polling sites until this was completed. Kim Dennison added that she needed the information on the polling sites by July 12th to prepare the ballots.

Chairman Brown stated that the next meeting to discuss the polling sites for the Annual School Election would be held on September 27, 2013 at 9:30 A.M. Chairman Brown requested that Kim call Mary Ley and give her the date and time of the meeting.

- B. Review & Approval of the Springdale Special Election Paper Ballots: Chairman Brown and Commissioners Anzalone and Tumey reviewed and accepted the paper ballots for the Springdale Special Election to be held August 13, 2013
- C. Review & Approval of the Springdale Special Election IvoTronic Ballots: Chairman Brown and Commissioners Anzalone and Tumey reviewed and accepted the IvoTronic ballot for the Springdale Special Election to be held August 13, 2013

Other Business:

Chairman Brown asked Commissioners Anzalone and Tumey to consider having new carpet installed in the public viewing area, staging area, and the 650 Room at an approximate cost of \$3,000. Chairman Brown stated that the old carpet was not secured on the floor and is not safe and that the storage of the IvoTronic voting machines is marking the floor. Chairman Brown stated that with the remodeling of the 650 Room, the carpet would need to be replaced and then made a motion to get a quote on carpeting the public viewing area, staging area, and the 650 Room, seconded by Commissioner Anzalone. Motion carried by voice vote.

Old Business:

None

Public Comment:

None

Announcements:

None

Adjournment:

Chairman Brown made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Tumey. The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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