

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

October 29, 2013

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

Others present: Election Coordinator Kim Dennison, Sharon Rose, County Clerk Tena O'Brien, and Elections/Voter Administrator Dana Caler

Media: Tom Sissom, Benton County Record

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M. and welcomed everyone.

Minutes:

Chairman Brown asked Commissioners Anzalone and Tumey if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the September 27, 2013. There being none, Chairman Brown made motion to accept the minutes as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Tumey. Motion carried by voice vote.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

Chairman Brown stated that he would like to move the discussion of Programming Your Own Ballot Software (PYOB) to the end of the agenda and combine the discussion of the 2014 Elections and the Review and Approval of the New Precinct Boundary Lines.

A. Discussion of 2014 Elections and Review and Approval of the New Precinct Boundary Lines:

Chairman Brown asked Election Coordinator Kim Dennison to give a report on locating new polling locations. Kim stated that she has looked for new polling sites in the Pea Ridge and Bella Vista areas. Kim stated that the Bella Vista area is posing a challenge, but that she will continue to search for new locations. Commissioner Anzalone asked for which elections are these locations needed. Elections/Voter Administrator Dana Caler stated that there are four major elections in 2014; (1) Preferential Primary Election; (2) Primary Run-Off Election; (3) General Election and; (4) General Run-Off Election. Commissioner Anzalone stated that he would look into a couple of locations in the Bella Vista area and report back. Kim stated that the new polling locations need to be in place by December 16, 2013, so that the County Clerk's Office will be able to mail updated Voter Registration Cards.

Election/Voter Administrator Dana Caler presented the legal descriptions for the seventy-three (73) precincts along with a map showing the boundaries of the precincts. Commissioner Tumey asked Dana if anything had changed from the first time this was presented to the Election Commission. Dana responded, no. Chairman Brown asked Commissioners Anzalone and Tumey for discussion. There being no discussion, Chairman Brown made motion to accept the legal descriptions of the seventy-three (73) precincts and the map showing the boundaries of the precincts, seconded by Commissioner Anzalone. Motion carried by voice vote.

The Commissioners signed an Order approving the Precinct and Boundary changes.

- B. Discussion of Programming Your Own Ballot Software (PYOB): Chairman Brown stated that the Election Commission is not writing code, but that this is a software program where we fill in the blanks. Chairman Brown added that State law requirements for mailing out overseas and absentee ballots sometimes meant the county had as little as nine days between the time the ballots were set and the date they had to be mailed. Commissioner Tumey stated that the Election Commission is paying ES&S to do things that are already being done by our staff. Commissioner Tumey also stated that a review of the 2012 election invoices show that the county paid ES&S more than \$62,000 in coding costs and fees for the primary and general elections and run-off elections. She stated that she did not see why the commission should continue to pay for proofreading their own work. Commissioner Tumey also stated that it would be a big responsibility and at the same time a great savings for the Election Commission.

Commissioner Anzalone asked Kim the cost of the software. Kim stated that it is \$51,000 plus tax for the software, approximately \$8,000 for training, and that there is a \$13,000 yearly maintenance fee after the first year. Commissioner Anzalone stated that this amount could be recovered within two (2) years.

County Clerk O'Brien asked the commission if there would be any additional costs. Kim stated that Craig Seibert, Regional Sales Manager with ES&S said everything was included in the \$51,000. County Clerk O'Brien made a suggestion that the Benton County IT Department speak with ES&S to confirm that the hardware is compatible. Kim Dennison stated that this software is not used with Benton County's Information System. Chairman Brown stated that an up-to-date quote would need to be acquired from ES&S before it is presented to the Quorum Court.

County Clerk O'Brien stated that Commissioner Tumey has touched on the subject for additional personnel for the Election Commission. Clerk O'Brien stated that in the Benton County Personnel Policy there is a classification for temporary employees that allows a temporary employee to work up to eighty-nine consecutive days, the work hours are not limited and overtime is paid as earned and there are no county employee benefits. County Clerk O'Brien suggested that perhaps during the May Primary Election they could hire an individual to work on a temporary basis and then again have this individual work in preparing for the November General Election. Commissioner Tumey stated that Benton County is the second largest county in the state and that she feels the two full-time and one part-time election workers need help. Dana Caler stated that the clerk's office will be available to assist the commission with L&A testing and will also be able to assist Kim and Sharon with training the poll workers. Kim stated that during the two large elections, the additional temporary employee would be welcomed.

Chairman Brown asked for further discussion on Programming Your Own Ballot Software. There being no further discussion, Commissioner Tumey made a motion to purchase the Program Your Own Ballot Software (PYOB) with clarity on the contracts, billing price, and maintenance fee, seconded by Commissioner Anzalone. Motion carried by voice vote.

Other Business:

None

Public Comments:

Commissioner Anzalone stated that a letter was mailed to State Senators and Representatives inviting them to a luncheon on November 5th at 11:30 A.M. to discuss legislation issues which were passed during the 2013 session and on future legislation which may be presented. Commissioner Anzalone feels it is important that the commissioners discuss their thoughts with the Senators and Representatives.

Adjournment:

Chairman Brown made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Tumey. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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