



Betty Seidel
Chairperson

Charles Bostic
Vice Chairperson

Barbara Bailey
Secretary

Barbara Dreher
Executive Director

Danville Election Commission

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V e r m i l i o n C o u n t y , I l l i n o i s

.MINUTES December 22, 2006

Call to Order

Chairwoman Betty Seidel called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m., Friday December 22, 2006 in the office of the Danville Election Commission. Those in attendance were Commissioners Betty Seidel and Charles Bostic, and Executive Director Barbara Dreher. Commissioner Barbara Bailey was absent. Attorney David Ryan appeared briefly

Approval of Agenda

Chuck Bostic moved to accept the agenda as presented. Seconded by Betty Seidel.

Approval of the Minutes of November 14, 2006 Meeting

Ms. Seidel stated that under the report on the election after the last paragraph, she said, should include her direction to Commissioner Bailey about redirecting people with complaints or concerns to speak directly to the director, who takes care of the day-to-day operations. She had said she didn't think the commissioners should be having side conversations with complainants. She also felt the only way issues could be resolved was if complaints or concerns were directed to the person who would be able to do something about them. It was fine for commissioners to discuss the issues amongst themselves, but that those complainants should be dealing directly with the director.

Charles Bostic moved to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Betty Seidel.

Accounts Payable – Purchase Orders

Barbara Dreher reviewed the purchase orders in the amount of \$18,210.60 with the Commissioners. Barbara Dreher said that all bills paid were still from the old budget, none of the new budget had been paid out yet. She said that most of the invoices were election related with the exception of the notary for Barbara Dreher and bill for Attorney Dave Ryan.

She said that the invoice from Inclusions Solutions was for 3 portable suitcase ramps to use at a polling places such as the firehouses where due to curbs, the only accessible entrance was using the overhead doors on the bays. The ramps unfolded to proper width and were held in place with a couple of pins. She said one of the churches had a very small curb at the front and a short 2-foot ramp took care of the problem, 2 3-ft ramps were for the curbs at 2 of the firehouses. There also some accessibility directional signs to redirect voters to the accessible entrance at a couple of polling places where the main entrance was not the accessible one. She said the items had been purchased from the old budget, but were covered by a HAVA grant and she would be receiving a check from the state for the amount spent from old budget.

Ms. Seidel said that she noticed there had been no resolution to the billing for the ballots from the March Primary Election. Ms. Dreher stated that she had e-mailed Judd Ryan and John Oldham November 1, 15, and Nov 30. She said that she had kept copies of each and had told them in the last e-mail that according to the County auditor any invoice due for old budget had to be in house no

later than December 10 in order to be processed. Anything received after this date would not be paid.

There was further discussion on methods to try to resolve this invoice .

Mr. Bostic moved to accept payables. Ms. Seidel seconded and concurred.

1. Reappointment of Commission Member

Mr. Bostic said that he had been sworn in on December 6 without any problems. He said that Judge Anderson said there had been no complaints from either party that he remains on the commission.

2. Set Commission meeting for next year – 2nd Tuesday

Ms. Seidel said that she had other responsibilities assigned at her primary place of business and was requesting that the commission move its meeting to the 2nd Tuesday of the month. She said that she had spoken to Ms. Bailey who had had no objections. Ms. Bostic said he had no problem either. He moved that the change be made. Ms. Seidel seconded and concurred. She asked that the director notify the new County Board Chairman and the parent committee chairman of the change who agreed to do so.

3. Legal Matters - Update

a. Newell Township Road Commissioner Recount

Ms. Dreher stated that the account in the paper was as much as she knew about the recount issue. Mr. Andrews had been reported on December 6 to be deciding by the next week what he would do, but there had been no word of any action taken. Ms. Dreher said the transcripts had been sent out to Mr. Andrew's attorney with an invoice for copy charges. She said that she also had sent a copy to Mr. Powell.

b. Primary Election Filing – Election set

Ms. Seidel asked if there had been any objections filed. Ms. Dreher said that there had been no objections filed, but that she had heard a rumor that an objection was going to be filed against Ms. McKissack's new petitions which would not affect preparations for the primary since there were only 2 mayoral candidates.

Ms. Seidel asked what the rumor was based on. Ms. Dreher stated that she had been told that Lois Cooper had contacted several people over the weekend to find out how to file the objection. She said that she had spoken to Ms. Cooper who had been going to file the day before but was trying to get another person to sign the objection with her. Ms. Seidel asked if all office staff was aware of what needed to be done if the objection was filed while the director was out of the office. Ms. Dreher answered in the affirmative and explained the preparations that had been made for that filing.

Ms. Dreher said that with the requirements of setting up the objection hearing, she would like to set the date of the hearing so that the notices could go out as soon as possible if one was filed. After discussion, the board decided any necessary hearing could be held after the regular meeting on January 9th at 10:00.

3. Polling Place – Temporary

Ms. Dreher said that due to complications of the situation at the Firehouse #2 on Vermilion Street and uncertainty of the city's finish of the project, she would like to do an emergency change of polling place. She said that there was no parking available due to the large trailers housing the firemen. She had received a couple of complaints after word of the mold problem was published. She said that the city kept saying the work would be finished in the next week, but the firemen were still housed in the temporary units outside. It would be difficult to gauge exactly when it would return to normal, she said, so she thought it best to move it temporarily to the First Nazarene Church across the street. The commissioners agreed. Ms Seidel asked that a press release be done so that the voters would not be confused about where to vote. Ms. Dreher agreed that she would do that in addition to sending out new voter I.D. cards for everyone in the entire precinct.

4. Voter Registration System – Update

a. Meeting with Kyle Thomas, SBE and Catalyst

Ms. Dreher said that she, Lynn Foster and Karen Rudd from Technology Services would meet next week on January 3, 4 or 5th with Kyle Thomas of the State Board of Elections and Scott Hilbert of Catalyst the state's computer contractor about upcoming changes to the voter registration system. She said that they were coming to Danville for the meeting to make sure that all changes necessary were being made and to set a firmer timetable.

Ms. Seidel asked when the complete job would be done. Ms. Dreher said that because of the county's change of computer system we were lagging slightly behind, but that the state was instituting changes in stages for a final completion in 2008. She said that she didn't feel there would be any major problems getting all necessary changes and updates completed. She said that a quote of necessary equipment and services had been submitted to the state for approval for the HAVA grant to cover the purchases.

5. Staff / Judges Retraining / Student Judges / Plan of Action Discussion

Ms. Seidel asked if the staff/judges retraining and Plan of Action were connected.

Ms. Dreher answered in the affirmative. She said that it was necessary to notify voters of any mistakes made on the ballots but because of problems encountered with using the Automarks, she would have one democrat and one republican election judge in the office daily during the period to certify the voters, initial the ballots. The voters would use regular voting booths and deposit their ballot into an M-100 scanner when finished. The judges would also process the mailed-in ballots daily and deposit those through the scanner each night. On Election Day, the judges would finish any mail ballots, leaving only the ballots in the sealed ballot boxes and a precinct spindle with all applications to vote. During the afternoon of Election Day, the judges would unseal the ballot boxes and sort the ballots by precinct. At 7:00 p.m. they would total the M-100's and pack the total tapes with the ballots and applications.

She said by doing that, it relieved the problem of some voters not liking to vote on the Automark and it speeds up the Election Day process. She said that moving the voting to an outside location was cost prohibitive with the personnel and technical costs necessary to have live contact with the office. She said that while the county was legally mandated to supply whatever was necessary to hold elections, she felt the costs for that were too large when it could be solved this with this other plan.

She said that with this plan, the 2 judges would be the only ones handling the voters at the counter and there may be busy periods where voters may have to wait. It would not be any different than standing in line for a few minutes at a precinct polling place, she said.

She said that she would continue to use Leora in the office and that while Jason wasn't working right now, he was willing to come back and do temp work during elections periods. She said that he wouldn't be working much on the clerical aspects. Leora would serve as the Republican election judge. She had once served as an election judge and since she knew the office procedures, it would make it very easy to covert it over. All procedures would be reviewed with the staff to be sure every protocol was followed.

Ms. Seidel asked about getting more, possibly younger judges. Ms. Dreher said that the legislature was taking a second look at using judges from schools, and she was trying to find out from the legislative committee about any changes being looked at. She said that the number of judges was not an issue with the primary with only 15 precincts involved and she would be able to find others by the April Election. She said that one strategy other jurisdictions had been using was to use only one set of judges in a polling place with combined precincts.

She said that the election judges "Continuing Education" classes prior to the Primary would deal with problems that came up last election such as dealing with the inactive voters and filling out the affidavits properly. She said that she would hold separate "technology" classes to cover operation of the M-100 and Automark. All new judges would be required to attend, but older judges needing a refresher would be welcome. She said that the instructions for the operation of each unit is bound and placed in each precinct kit so there was no reason the judges didn't have those instructions.

Ms. Seidel asked if any judges had quit since the election. Ms. Dreher said that none had since the election. Ms. Seidel said that she could be available to do presentations to attract new judges if that was necessary. Other options were discussed.

6. Commissioners Comments

Attorney Dave Ryan arrived and was brought up to date on some of the issues that were discussed.

Meeting adjourned to January 9, 2007 a.m. at 10:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Dreher
Executive Director