

Reviewed by: _____

ELECTION BOARD MINUTES
February 28 2011

Those present at the Election Board meeting held in Room 103 of the Courthouse Annex:

Craig Adams, Chair of Election Board
Eleanora Miller, Election Board
Lisa Mumford, Admin. Asst.
Amber Kistler, Clerk
Commissioner Jan Beichner
Connie Pryor, Taxpayer
Craig Westover, Constable
Susan Duray, Taxpayer

Martha Breene, Vice-Chair of Election Board
Denise Jones, Chief Clerk of Election Board
Gerry McGuinness, Voter Registration Coordinator
Michael R. Hadley, Esq.
Roger Pryor, Taxpayer
Michael McDonald, Taxpayer
Rod Bedow, Sr., Taxpayer

Craig Adams called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. A motion was made by Eleanora Miller to approve the minutes from the February 24, 2011 meeting, seconded by Martha Breene, aye all.

There was one issue raised when asked if there was any public comment on agenda items. Roger Pryor asked why the Richland Township voting precinct is not handicapped accessible. Denise Jones advised that the voting precinct was moved from the Richland Grange Hall to the Nickleville Church Social Hall a while back and that it is handicapped accessible. Mr. Pryor didn't realize that since he has been voting absentee for the last couple of years.

Martha Breene made an amendment to the agenda requesting Michael R. Hadley and Amber Kistler be added to the swearing-in and appointment to the Board. Martha Breene made a motion to approve the amendment, seconded by Craig Adams, aye all.

The following individuals were sworn in by Craig Adams and appointed on the Board of Elections. They are as follows:

Denise Jones as Chief Clerk of the Board of Elections
Lisa Mumford as Secretary of the Board of Elections
Gerry McGuinness as Voter Registrar to the Board of Elections
Amber Kistler as Clerk to the Board of Elections
Michael R. Hadley, Esq. as Special Counsel to the Board of Elections

Before Michael Hadley was sworn in Denise Jones questioned the board's authority to appoint special counsel. She indicated the commissioners are the "sole contractors of the county," and budget requests must go through them. Craig Adams made a motion to take legal action if the commissioners nix the appointment of special counsel, seconded by Martha Breene. Eleanora Miller abstained from voting.

The discussion of ballot preparation for the Primary Election was the next item discussed. Craig presented for approval that the constable positions that are less than six (6) year terms are to be removed and not be placed on the ballot. Mike Hadley advised that with constables who have been appointed serve for the unexpired term. Therefore, constables are only placed on the ballot

for a full six year term. Martha made a motion to approve the removal of constable positions that are less than six (6) years, seconded by Eleanora, aye all.

Martha explained thoroughly the process of filing a nomination petition and stressed that it is very important that they are filled out correctly. Upon filing a petition, the candidate will now be requested to fill out information on a log sheet stating their name, address, phone number, email address, position they are running for, district, and the date and time they filed their petition. The log sheet will be on the counter in the Commissioners' office. This information will help to contact a person if there is a question in regards to their petition.

She also advised that new policies and procedures would be developed by incorporating some of the procedures which are followed now along with new rules, policies, and procedures in which will be created by the Election Board. The goal is to create clear and comprehensive procedures for the election.

In regards to financial statements, Martha emphasized that everything on the statement must be filled out completely.

The next item was establishing the date, time and place for casting of lots for ballot positions. Denise Jones advised the Casting of Lots is scheduled for March 16th at 10:00 a.m. in Room 100 in the Courthouse Annex. Casting of Lots is held when more than one candidate chooses to run for one position on a ballot, it is required to hold a "casting of lots" to determine the order in which each name will appear on the ballot for each respective position. Craig Adams advised that the Casting of Lots will be handled differently this year. Names of the candidates will be pulled from a hat and then they will draw their number from the shaker instead of drawing by alphabetical order according to last name.

Other business or comments - The Board of Elections is aware there may be problems in receiving funds for appointment of special counsel, video-streaming the meeting, purchasing a set of the Election Code, cost of constables at the polling precincts, and potential costs associated with the Board's planned overhaul of all policies related to elections. Denise Jones advised there is a process that needs to be followed to authorize to spend County funds. Discussion ensued that resulted in a motion by Martha Breene and seconded by Craig Adams to enter into litigation against the Board of Commissioners should they refuse to fund Election Board activities. Eleanora Miller refused to vote on this issue but agreed to have a special meeting set-up to meet with the Commissioners on these issues. Craig Adams made a motion to approve the special meeting, seconded by Eleanora Miller. Martha Breene opposed. Motion passed by majority vote. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 2nd at 10:30 a.m. with the Commissioners to discuss Election Board issues. Craig Adams and Mike Hadley would attend to represent the Election Board.

Public comment – Rod Bedow suggested the Election Board present their requests to the Commissioner Board meeting which is being held on Tuesday, March 8th. Martha opposed that idea.

Craig announced that the Board is going to eliminate the work sessions and start the Election Board meetings at 6:00 p.m. every Monday in March, April and May 2nd and 9th. The Board of Elections will hold their next public meeting on Monday, March 7, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 103 of the County Court House Annex.

Eleanora Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m., seconded by Martha Breene, aye all.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Mumford, Admin. Assist.