



**Pulaski County Election Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2020
5:00 p.m.**

Members Present:

Evelyn D. Gomez
Joshua A. Price
Kristi McKinnon

Staff Present:

Bryan Poe
Amanda Dickens
Shawn Camp

Visitors Present: Jason Kennedy, Circuit County Clerk's Office; Marc Harrison, Circuit County Clerk's Office; Cherie Abston, Circuit County Clerk's Office; Susan Inman; State Representative Doug House

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Gomez. A quorum was present, with all commissioners in attendance.

The pledge of allegiance was led by State Representative Doug House.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Price moved to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Chair Gomez. Motion passed by voice vote.

Business

Provisional Ballot Hearing for the January 14, 2020 House District 34 Special Primary Election

There were two provisional ballots that were counted and three were not counted. Commissioner Price moved to certify the provisional ballots for the House District 34 Special Primary Election held on January 14, 2020; seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed by voice vote.

Order of Destruction for the November 14, 2017 Defunct Gray Township Wet/Dry Special Election

Commissioner Price moved to approve the destruction of all election materials related to the Defunct Gray Township Special Election held on November 14, 2017; seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed by voice vote.

Order of Destruction for the August 8, 2017 North Little Special Election

Commissioner McKinnon moved to approve the destruction of all election materials related to the North Little Rock Special Election held on August 8, 2017; seconded by Commissioner Price. Motion passed by voice vote.

Order of Destruction for the September 19, 2017 Annual School Election

Commissioner Price moved to approve the destruction of all election materials related to the Annual School Election held on September 19, 2017; seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed by voice vote.

Spring Election Timeline

Director Poe presented a timeline for meetings that need to take place for the upcoming elections. The dates are listed in the section titled schedule of upcoming meetings.

Voter Turnout Percentages for Election Results

Commissioner McKinnon moved for the voter turnout results to be posted on the election commission website and social media; seconded by Commissioner Price. Motion passed by voice vote.

Certification of Official Results for the January 14, 2020 House District 34 Special Primary Election

Commissioner Price moved for the certification of election results for the House District 34 Special Primary Election; seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed by voice vote.

Approval of Notice of Election for the February 11, 2020 House District 34 Special Primary Runoff

Commissioner McKinnon moved to approve the notice of election for the February 11, 2020 House District 34 Special Primary Runoff; seconded by Commissioner Price. Motion passed by voice vote.

Certification of Ballot Styles for the February 11, 2020 House District 34 Special Primary Election Runoff

There are 11 ballot styles for the election. Commissioner Price moved to certify the ballot styles for the February 11, 2020 House District 34 Special Primary Election Runoff; seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed by voice vote.

Other Business

Voting Equipment Funding

Director Poe presented a resolution to the commissioners from the quorum court sponsored by Justice of the Peace Donna Massey. There was much discussion regarding the types of equipment to be purchased and the resolution from the commissioners to endorse the resolution from the quorum court. The commissioners plan to attend the quorum court meeting on January 28, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., to go on public record to voice their support for the purchasing of voting equipment.

Commissioner Price would like to have both the written resolution from the commissioners and to go on public record at the quorum court meeting. Commissioner McKinnon disagreed with adopting a resolution from the board, she felt that it was repetitive to create the additional resolution. Chair Gomez requested a letter of support to be presented to the quorum court. Commissioner Price moved to accept the recommended type of equipment as per the quorum court resolution; not seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion failed by voice vote.

Commissioner McKinnon moved for the commissioners to go before the quorum court on January 28, 2020 to show their appreciation for the resolution and create a letter showing their appreciation for the resolution to be signed by all three commissioners. Commissioner Price requested that Commissioner McKinnon's motion be handled as two separate motions.

Commissioner McKinnon moved for the commissioners to attend the quorum court meeting on January 28, 2020 to show their support for the quorum court resolution; seconded by Commissioner Price. Motion passed by voice vote.

Commissioner McKinnon moved for the creation of a letter to the quorum court, directed to Justice of the Peace Donna Massey showing the appreciation of the commissioners for the support of the resolution utilizing much of the same language of the quorum court resolution without the legal language; seconded by Commissioner Price. Motion passed by voice vote. Chair Gomez requested that Director Poe prepare the letter and send it to the commissioners for it to be proofread.

Director Poe recommended that the commissioners adopt the second resolution for new equipment from the commissioners that reflects there is \$1.86 million to be

spent for the new voting equipment. \$1,563,726.53 will be received from the Secretary of State's Office and \$300,000 will be received from the Circuit County Clerk's Office. With this money 140 Model DS 200 Precinct Scanner, 300 ExpressPoll, 265 ExpressVotes and 75 ExpressPass Printer with the possibility of obtaining future funding for additional equipment. After much discussion, Commissioner Price moved for acceptance of these numbers as the basis for a plan to start the process of obtaining new voting equipment with the opportunity for expansion; seconded by Commissioner McKinnon. Motion passed by voice vote.

Chair Gomez does not feel that this is the best plan for the people of Pulaski County. Director Poe stated that on March 17, 2020 the commissioner's need to have a plan in place to present to the quorum court in order to request more funding for new equipment.

Training Materials

Chair Gomez requested an explanation as to why the commissioners were not given the opportunity to approve the poll worker training manuals. Chair Gomez requested that the commissioners be allowed the opportunity to approve the materials before the State Board of Election Commissioners approves the training manuals. Director Poe explained that it was due to a time constraint. Commissioner McKinnon stated it was her understanding that if new equipment is obtained then the training materials from the State Board of Election Commissioners would be utilized for future poll worker training. Commissioner McKinnon moved that in the future the election commission staff present materials to the commissioners in a timely manner unless there is an emergency which requires the staff to present information to the state board at the discretion of the elections director; seconded by Commissioner Price. Motion passed by voice vote. Chair Gomez moved for an amendment to the motion for Director Poe to notify the commissioners when something is presented to the state board; no second was provided. Motion passed by voice vote.

House District 34 Special Primary Election Errors at St. Luke United Methodist

The results tape for the House District 34 Special Primary Election was not posted at St. Luke United Methodist Church, precinct 99 on the night of the election. The solution to correct this matter was for the Chief Judge to take a picture of the posted results tape on February 11, 2020 and text it to Director Poe.

Press Release for the February 11, 2020 House District 34 Special Primary Election Runoff

Director Poe presented two press releases for the House District 34 Special Primary Election Runoff, one for early voting and one for election day. Commissioner Price

recommended that the phone number, website and social media be added to the press release. Commissioner McKinnon recommended that these items be included in the letterhead in the future. Commissioner McKinnon suggested that the sentence “Only voters residing in State House District 34 are eligible to cast ballots” be changed to “Only eligible voters in State House District 34 may cast ballots”.

Budget Updates Added to the Agenda

Chair Gomez stated that she would like to see a budget update added to the agenda, she feels that it would be helpful to the commissioners in regard to knowing the amount of monies that have been spent versus monies that is on hand. After much discussion, Commissioner McKinnon moved for Director Poe to email the commission a copy of the statement of operations as it is received; seconded by Commissioner Price. Motion passed by voice vote.

Access to the Election Commission Office

Chair Gomez has requested that the commissioners be provided with a key or the code to the office. Commissioner McKinnon stated that government offices have security liaisons that determine who can have access to the offices. Commissioner McKinnon moved that Director Poe contact the security liaisons to determine if the commissioners can have a key or the code to the office; seconded by Commissioner Price. Motion passed by voice vote. Commissioner Price stated that due to the sensitivity to the materials regarding elections that he is not comfortable with having access to the office when the staff is not here. Chair Gomez stated that she just wants to be able to go to her mailbox.

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

January 28, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. commissioners will be attending the quorum court meeting.

January 30, 2020 at 7:15 p.m. for the certification of the logic and accuracy testing results for the February 11, 2020 Special Primary Election Runoff and the March 3, 2020 Preferential Primary.

February 11, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. for the certification House District 34 Special Primary Election Runoff and appoint election officials for the March 3, 2020 Preferential Primary and House District 34 General Election.

February 13, 2020 at 7:00 a.m. for the provisional ballot hearing and certification of election results for the February 11, 2020 House District 34 Special Primary Election

Runoff. Ballot position drawing and certification of ballot styles for the March 3, 2020 House District 34 Special General Election.

February 13, 2020 at 7:15 p.m. to certify logic and accuracy testing results and approve notice of election for the March 3, 2020 House District 34 Special General Election.

March 3, 2020 at 9:00 p.m. to certify the unofficial election results for the March 3, 2020 Preferential Primary and the House District 34 Special General Elections.

March 9, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. for the preliminary provisional ballot review for the March 3, 2020 Preferential Primary and the House District 35 Special General Elections.

March 13, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. for certification of election results for the March 3, 2020 Preferential Primary and the House District 34 Special General Elections.

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.