



**Pulaski County Election Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2020
7:30 p.m.**

Members Present:

Evelyn D. Gomez
Joshua A. Price
Kristi M. Stahr

Staff Present:

Bryan Poe
Betty Green
Jodie Dildy
Amanda Dickens
Bart Moreland

Visitors Present: Adam Fogleman, County Attorney; Various members of the media;
Various poll watchers

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chair Gomez. A quorum was present, with all commissioners in attendance. Ms. Green was present via Zoom.

Meeting recessed at 7:31 due to technical difficulties, volume could not be established for Zoom and YouTube viewing. The meeting was moved to the Jeffrey Hawkins room once the voting equipment was cleared out.

Meeting resumed at 8:09 p.m., with all technical difficulties corrected.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Ross.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Stahr moved to approve the minutes as written; seconded by Commissioner Price. Motion passed by voice vote.

Business

Canvass Absentee Ballots

The commissioners reviewed the absentee ballots that were considered undecided, disqualified, signature matches and identification problems. The commissioners

requested a change to the remake process for ballots, all remakes are to be made in the presence of the commissioners and a representative from each party. The process also needs to be streamed live for public viewing. Chair Gomez contacted two poll workers to obtain their assistance with the remake process. Director Poe explained the various reasons that a ballot would need to be remade. The commissioners answered various questions from the visitors during this process. There was some discussion between the commissioners and the county attorney regarding the remake process. The commissioners requested a press release be issued for 8:00 a.m., Thursday, November 5, 2020 regarding remaking of ballots.

Certification of Unofficial Election Results

The commissioners read the unofficial election results for the record. A copy of the unofficial election results is attached. Commissioner Stahr moved to approve the unofficial election results for the November 3, 2020 General Election; seconded by Commissioner Price. Motion passed by voice vote.

Other Business

Discussion of Election Events or Concerns

The commissioners shared various events or concerns relating to the election. Many of the polling locations reported difficulty contacting the county clerk's office on election day. It was reported that someone in the county clerk's office said for a voter that has lived in Pulaski County for three years, but their registration was in Faulkner County for the voter to go Faulkner County to vote. The voter had missed the deadline for transferring their registration, which was October 30, 2020. Many of the poll workers reported the staff of the county clerk's office were rude or provided incorrect information on election day. During early voting there was no trouble contacting the clerk's office, but there were wait times of up to 30 minutes on election day. The commissioners also shared that many of the poll workers were excited to be working the election. And there were many compliments shared regarding the staff by the poll workers.

Meeting recessed at 2:30 a.m. on November 4, 2020 for everyone to get some rest.

Meeting resumed at 10:00 a.m. on November 4, 2020 with continuation of commissioners reviewing absentee ballots.

Continuation of Canvassing Absentee Ballots

The commissioners requested copies of the designated bearer log and other paperwork from the clerk's office. The commissioners approved 239 ballots to be counted.

Discussion of Grant for Security System

Director Poe presented the paperwork for a grant to improve the security system on the warehouse. The Office of Emergency Management helped with preparing the paperwork for the grant. The amount of the grant is \$20,000. Chair Gomez requested clarification as to why the commissioners were not included in the process of writing the grant request. Director Poe stated that the commissioners were informed of this matter a few months back. Chair Gomez requested clarification regarding what processes the commissioners would be required to do in the future regarding reporting to Homeland Security, as well as all details regarding the grant. After further discussion, Chair Gomez signed the paperwork.

Meeting recessed at 6:23 p.m.

Meeting resumed at 6:30 p.m.

The commissioners discussed the plan for remaking of damaged ballots. Commissioner Stahr moved to approve the tabulation of ballots based on what the commission has already approved as valid through their processes, valid ballots will be remade by election officials on November 5, 2020, live streamed on YouTube, and an amended unofficial results will be posted; seconded by Commissioner Price. Motion passed by voice vote.

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

November 9, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. for the preliminary review of provisional ballots for the November 3, 2020 General Election.

November 13, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. for the provisional ballot hearing, and certification of election results for the November 3, 2020 General Election. Setup for possible runoff on December 1, 2020.

November 18, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. for the certification of logic and accuracy testing results for the December 1, 2020 General Election Runoff.

December 1, 2020 at 9:00 p.m. for the certification of unofficial results for the December 1, 2020 General Election Runoff.

December 4, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. for the preliminary review of provisional ballots for the December 1, 2020 General Election Runoff.

December 14, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. for the certification of official results for the December 1, 2020 General Election Runoff.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.