

Minutes
Hamilton County Election Commission
December 3, 2001

Upon call duly made and notice given Chairman Waller called the meeting to order with all members present except for Commissioner Walden who was out of town on business.

The minutes of the previous meeting of November 6, 2001 and December 3, 2001 on a motion by Commissioner and seconded by Commissioner

Mr. Bart McKinney and Mr. Alan Gaston of the Data Processing Department were here to show and explain to the Commission the new Voter System. After much discussion and some questions the Commissioners were very pleased with the results.

Commissioner Kliner asked if they were able to pull up the different Senate Districts, Legislative Districts, City Council and County Commission Districts. The Commissioners asked that those be added. Mr. McKinney said that those fields would be added to the selection screen and that you would just go down and click on the one you needed. Mr. McKinney said that the State was coming this Wednesday, December 5 to certify this system. Chairman Waller asked if there were accommodations for the Early Voting sites. Mr. McKinney said that there was a sub system for early voting. It will work similar to the way it is done now. Mr. McKinney said that we need either PC's or lap tops at the early voting sites. Chairman Waller said that the bottom line is that we will need to buy new equipment. Chairman Waller also asked if they would be able to track the individuals as to who is doing the work and on what day etc. Chairman Waller asked Mr. McKinney if there would be any instructions for the staff and Mr. McKinney said that there would have some online documentation that is to be used and will also have written documentation that will be more detailed. They will definitely have step by step instructions and procedures. Commissioner Kliner, again complimented Mr. McKinney on the new system and all the Commissioners said they felt it was excellent. Mr. McKinney said that the State would be here on Wednesday to certify the new system. Once the system is certified then they will convert all the data into the system and it will run parallel for a month or so, which means the staff will have to key into both systems when changes are made. He said that they are continuously adding and changing things as the staff finds problems.

Administrator Jackson explained to the Commission that she, Bud Knowles, Kathleen Penney and Charlotte Mullis had a meeting this morning with the U.S. Post Office to discuss rates. Mr. Randy Bowen met with us and it was very detailed and it was decided that it would be best for us to continue to go first class mail. It will still go out at .21 cents each. It was decided it would be best for it to come back via Qualified Business Reply Mail at a rate of .18 cents + .05 cents which is a total of .23 cents each. Each card that comes back with an address change will cost .60 cents. The cards that come back Attempted-Not Known, Address Unknown etc. come back at no charge. This is under the stipulation that the Election Commission meets all the requirements of the QBRM in the printing of these confirmation notices. Kathleen explained that she had talked with the printer and he was used to working with Susan Hardin from the post office on this type of mail procedure.

Commissioner Johnson felt that we needed to get back with the post office and have them put rate fees down on paper and specifics and what they need. She feels that we are in a bind because there was an error at the post office. We don't want any more errors. Carolyn said she felt that before another piece of mail goes out it should be in writing. She feels that we were misled. Carolyn told the Commission that on Thursday, December 6, 2001 that the bill coming up in Washington will address the mailing costs for the NVRA. It is the bill that has the billions of dollars in it that will be funneled down to the State and County levels. It is mostly to replace the Punch Card System, but will be available for other needs also. At the bottom of this bill is the postage for the NVRA mailing. If it is passed we are talking half the money.

Re-districting – Brad Ledford for GIS explains the packet he gave out to each Commissioner. The blue one has the figures of each precinct before reapportioning. The Gray one has the new figures that the Election Commission worked on in the meeting of November 26th and explaining that the Commission decided to have the Falling Water precinct divided into Falling Water # 1 and # 2. The yellow one is a combination of both blue and gray and the last two columns are the total population with all the changes and the total population of the 18 + changes. Some of the numbers are positive, some negative and some with 0's. The positive ones are the ones that gained population, the negatives lost population and the 0's no changes.

Carolyn had some concerns about the Cromwell community. They are voting in the Airport precinct and this increases the voter population in Airport and she feels that these people should be voting closer in their area. She feels they need to be voting in the Kingspoint precinct. The people on Noah Reed road to Hickory Valley should move to the Airport precinct and feels this is the right thing to do. A motion was made by Commissioner Lane to go along with Carolyn's suggestion, seconded by Commissioner Johnson.

Commissioner Kliner had asked the Carolyn to look at some precincts that he thought might be able to merge with another. The first precinct was Amnicola. Carolyn said that it was geographic. Missionary Ridge North is a boundary for the State for the 10th & 28th to get from one side of the ridge to the other. Ridgedale is a legislative boundary. Wauhatchie City is one that she has no suggestions as to what to combine that with. She can't make that decision. Ridgeside is a Municipality and nothing can be done with that. Bakewell I, at one point was just Bakewell than it was divided into 2 precincts. If you should ask these voters you would leave like it is. Falling Water, the decision was made in the last meeting to make it Falling Water # 1 & # 2. Flat Top Mountain, this is geographic and nothing can be done with that. Valdeau, this is the area between Mtn. Creek and Signal Mountain and the best thing to do with this is to leave it where it is and keep voting with Mountain Creek precinct. Wauhatchie County is the same as Wauhatchie city. They are all voting together at the same polling place. We use one machine and no extra workers and the voters are satisfied where they are. Harrison # 3 increased in size and this is a Legislative Boundary. There is well over 2,000 people now in Harrison 3. Hixson 3 is also a Legislative Boundary as is North Woods North # 2 and Pleasant Grove # 2. She would be afraid to attempt to do anything to those Legislative boundaries until the State has completed their reapportionment. After the State is finished there will be changes that need to be made and they should keep these in mind.

The Administrator told the Commission about attending the T.A.C.E.O. seminar in Gatlinburg. She told about attending the Legislative committee meeting as a representative from the Federal Election Commission. She said there were several issues that pertained to the operation of the office and how it could be better computer wise.

Chairman Waller invited the Commission down to the Legal Council meeting on Thursday. Mr. Lane said he would be there.

There being no further business the meeting was duly and properly adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Walden
Secretary

Chairman Tyrone Waller

Commissioner Linda Johnson

Commissioner Wesley Kliner

Commissioner Bryan Lane