

Minutes
Hamilton County Election Commission
September 10, 2001

Upon call duly made and notice given Chairman Lane called the meeting to order with all members present.

The minutes from the previous meeting of August 27, 2001 were approved on a motion by Commissioner Klinier and seconded by Commissioner Johnson.

Old Business:

Chairman Lane brought up longevity pay. He told the Commission that he was very much in favor of this and that they should go on and vote on it. Should there be any problems down the road then they will face it at that time. His contention is that when you are talking Hamilton County Employees you are talking about everyone, not just the employees that were in the evaluation. The evaluation was not for longevity pay purposes. Carolyn explained to the Commissioners what her assessment of the situation is. She said that when she went to the meeting with the people who were going to do the evaluation for the county and reported back to the Election Commission and the decision was made not to do it. This longevity bonus has nothing to do with the evaluation as she understands it. It was never mentioned in the meeting. She feels the longevity bonus is separate from the regular evaluation. Commissioner Walden said he felt we needed a way to assess the performance of all of our people. He asked Carolyn if she has ever had a performance review on the employees. Carolyn said no. He feels now is the perfect opportunity to get job descriptions and evaluations and personnel policy procedures so that everyone is treated fairly, equally and equitable. Commission Walden said he felt that the Election Commission had made a bad decision in not participating in the evaluation, but he feels that they should not punish the county employees as a result of that. He is in favor of getting the longevity pay. He feels that we should go back and right the wrong and get job descriptions and assessments and participate. Chairman Lane said that the longevity pay did not have anything to do with job performance. Longevity is the years of service with the county. Carolyn explained to the Commission that she had talked with Mr. Johnny Miller, Personnel Director and he told her that they needed to write a letter to the County Commissioners asking them for this amount of money.

Chairman Lane said he wished to appoint a committee for re-precincting. He appointed himself, Linda Johnson and Wesley Kliner to a committee of three. He will serve as chairman. They will sit down and make the plans as to how they will approach this. Michael Walden will also be on this committee.

Chairman Lane set a meeting for Monday, September 17, 2001 at 5:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting will be to set up a plan and discuss how they are going about the re-precincting.

Chairman Lane called on the visitors. Robin Smith, Republican Party chairman said she was here to congratulate each one of the commissioners on addressing voter verification and she feels it will have an impact on the integrity of the elections.

Commissioner Walden said he appreciated working with Mr. Lane and his leadership in the job he had done as Chairman. They had not had one partisan argument. He had been fair, equitable and it had been a pleasure to work with him.

Commissioner Walden made the motion that Tyrone Waller be elected Chairman of the Hamilton County Election Commission and was seconded by Commissioner Johnson.

Commissioner Kliner made the motion, as the junior member of the minority party, to nominate Mike Walden, the senior member of the minority party to be Secretary, seconded by Commissioner Johnson.

Chairman Waller took his seat and said he was surprised, but happy with his election. He said that there are a lot of issues to work on, but he felt it was a great time to be on the Election Commission.

Mr. Summers, Attorney brought up John Wolf's letter. He said that he had sent out a memo to the Commission about it. He said that it was now up to the Commission as to what they do. Commissioner Kliner said that he had received the copy of Carolyn's letter to Mr. Wolf. He liked it. He feels as though Mr. Wolf does not have any recourse at this time. The Commission is in compliance with the state law. If they allow him access they would be out of compliance.

Commissioner Walden asked about the financial statements. Carolyn said that they came in that afternoon. Mr. Walden asked if they could have a copy. She said that they had not checked it out. Mr. Walden said that since July they had only received one statement and they were due one a month. He said there were issues about the pay plan and about the lap top computer. He said that he remembered clearly voting on no purchases in excess over \$500.00. He wanted to know where the lap top computer came from and who voted on it. Commissioner Walden said he feels if there is a management issue then

this Commission needs to go to the County Commission every month and keep them updated as to what the Election Commission is doing financially and why we are spending money and that they can expect to be over budget. Commissioner Walden is in the dark because he has seen only one financial statement this year as to the budget.

Administrator Jackson told the Commission about the postal line item and how she had to take out of two other line items and put into postage. She explained how the post office officials had explained that our mail would go out first class at .34 cents and come back at .34 cents.

Commissioner Lane made a motion to put Mr. Jerry Summers, Attorney and the Election Commissions legal advisor, on a retaining fee of \$1000.00 a month and this was seconded by Commissioner Johnson.

Commissioner Walden asked again about the lap top computer. After much discussion Commissioner Kliner went on record by saying that he remembered discussing the desks, but said no to a lap top computer because they often walked away. They did not authorize the buying of the lap top computer. Commissioner Walden went on record saying that he was most concerned about not having any performance evaluations for the employees and is personally concerned that Carolyn's job performance is not monitored in a closer manner. He feels like they need to be fair to Carolyn and make sure that she realizes that they have some issues with her performance and one being making unauthorized purchases. If they allow this to continue and don't correct the problem then they are part of the problem and not part of the solution. He feels that they have some issues and that they need to be dealt with. Commissioner Lane made a suggestion that Commissioner Walden prepare a letter of reprimand to Carolyn Jackson's personnel file and present it to the Commission. No Commissioner stated that they authorized Carolyn to purchase any computer .

Administrator Jackson told the Commission that the new voter registration system is now being installed and this is being done in stages. She will keep them informed as to the progress.

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