

Minutes  
Hamilton County Election Commission  
March 21, 2002

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

Chairman Waller welcomed Mr. William Kennedy to the Election Commission. Mr. Kennedy said that he hoped to do his very best to do that which needed to be done and he looked forward to serving with each Commissioner. He felt the process was very, very important and always has been to him.

The minutes of the previous meeting of February 25, 2002 were approved on a motion by Commissioner Kliner and seconded by Commissioner Johnson.

Chairman Waller asked Carolyn to give everyone an update on the Voter Registration System. As of this day they have verified the voters to the precincts, but they are still having a problem getting to the point where they can run labels and diskettes. They hope to have this ready by this Tuesday.

Commissioner Johnson asked about the ballot order and how much time they have in order to get them ordered. Commissioner Walden asked what the holdup is and was told that the Sheriff's candidates. The Judge gave Mr. Guidi and Mr. Thurman until March 20<sup>th</sup> to file with P.O.S.T. Commission. Administrator Jackson received a FAX from the P.O.S.T. Commission that Mr. Guidi and Mr. Thurman had filed their affidavit and certification. P.O.S.T. has until March 27 to either acknowledge that they are qualified or denied. Mr. Summers said that he had called the State Attorney Janet Klienfelder, who was here on behalf of Brook Thompson and also P.O.S.T. and he asked her to let him know immediately as to weather they were certified or if there was a problem. Commissioner Walden asked Mr. Summers if the Commission could pre approved the candidates so they would not have to meet again in order. Mr. Summers said that he felt that they could be approved to be placed on the ballot on the condition that they pass the TBI background check that is being performed at this time by March 27<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Summers said yes that they did have the authority to do that. Commissioner Kliner made the motion to conditionally certify them to be on the ballot, seconded by Commissioner Johnson.

Commissioner Kliner explained to the Commission that the way the lines were drawn there were several pockets that have a few people in them and according to TCA 3-1-102

they need to precinct these people which would mean that Soddy Daisy would need to have 9 precincts. Commissioner Kliner said that he talked with Senator Crutchfield and Senator Fowler they came up with an approach that the Senators propose to amend the senate bill to include these annexed areas and adjust their senate district lines so that the Election Commission will not have to mess with the precinct lines. It will all be up at the State Senate and they could get it done. Both Senators graciously consented to it and Linda Johnson was very instrumental in convincing both that it was in the best interest and to the advantage of the citizens of Hamilton County that we don't have to fund additional precincts, one of which would have only four voters. This is now in the works, but it might not work politically. He explained that this was not a Hamilton County problem alone. Every county in Tennessee is having the same problem because they used last year's precinct maps. Chairman Waller called on William Cotton and he said they he understands that they are asking that the certifications are null and void in these particular items and these pocket precincts. Mr. Cotton said that they are talking about a change and that means the County Commission could change because the doors are open. He feels the County Commission has the same right. Commissioner Walden told Mr. Cotton that his understanding with that rational is that this will never happen on a state level because there are other issues in other municipalities. Mr. Cotton said that all he wanted to know is if they were going to decertify what the state has already approved. Mr. Kliner said they were not and they were talking about an amendment to adjust a few census tract lines. Mr. Cotton said that they would like to give Linda Johnson an amement to give to Mr. Crutchfield and submit it. He asked what they needed to do. Ms JoAnne Favors said that she has some concerns and how is she to have them addressed too. After much discussion, Mr. Summers told Ms Favors to check the statute 2-3-102.

Administrator Jackson told the Commission that Senator Fowler's district is affected in the August and November elections. Qualifying deadline is April 4<sup>th</sup> and if something could be done it has to be done by then or it is mute until 2004. With this time line it looks like we will have to create 20 new precincts.

Administrator Jackson told the Commission that we will soon be able to produce CD's and the cost is different from county to county, and it was suggested that the cost be about #300.00. After some discussion Commissioner Kliner made the motion to charge \$50.00, which includes the setup fee for Commission district, City council and House district and \$250.00 for County wide and Senate district and Commissioner Johnson seconded.

The Commission approved 758 Election Day officials for the May 7, 2002 primary election. Commissioner Walden commended Bud for his work in coming up with these workers.

Commissioner Kliner told the Commission that he had received in the mail a letter from Carolyn Jackson indicating her desire to retire effective March 29<sup>th</sup>. He thanked Carolyn for many years of service and he knew that she had put her heart and soul into it. He moved to accept the letter and he requested she stay until after the May election and help us through it. It was decided that May 15, 2002 would put her through the certification. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion.

Chairman Waller suggested the Election Commission set up a time frame to accept resumes, and interview people. Commissioner Johnson said that she had received 5 different resumes. Commissioner Johnson said they need to make a decision soon so they can get someone in here to work with Carolyn before she leaves. Commissioner Walden asked who the candidates were at this time. Chairman Waller said he had received a resume from Mr. Eddy Echols, Ms Patsy Reynolds and he had a call from Scott Lindsay yesterday. Commissioner Johnson said she had those plus one from Cathi Smothers and Fran Dzik. Commissioner Kliner asked Mr. Summers if it would be against the Sun Shine Law to have these people come in individually and interview them. This is a personnel matter and should be excluded from the Sun Shine Law. The meeting was set for Wednesday March 27, 2002 at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioner Johnson asked about the early voting hours and it was decided the hours would be from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and keep it consistent

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Secretary Michael Walden

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Commissioner William Kennedy

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Chairman Tyrone Waller

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Commissioner Wesley Kliner

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Commissioner Linda Johnson

