

Minutes  
Hamilton County Election Commission  
April 15, 2002

Upon call duly made and notice given Chairman Waller called the meeting to order with all members present along with Fran Dzik, the newly appointed Administrator.

The minutes of the previous meeting of April 2, 2002 were approved on a motion by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Kennedy.

Under Old Business the Voter Registration System was addressed. Administrator Jackson told the Commission that the staff was in the process of sending out voter registration cards to those voters who had a precinct change because of redistricting and the new registered voters. The early voting will start on Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup>. It has been determined that a new printer is needed or another printer because the one that is now in the computer room will not carry the program. The printer is priced at \$7,000.00. The GIS department looked at it and determined that a new one is needed. Carolyn explained that Bryan Turner was looking in to it and that there is not enough money in the Capitol Line item, but there should be enough in other line items to cover the cost. This will be checked out before it is ordered. Commissioner Walden asked Carolyn if she had a recommendation as to which line item it should be pulled from. She suggested it come from 3090. Commissioner Walden made a motion that we purchase a copier, not to exceed \$10,000.00 and to purchase it from line item 3050 based upon the recommendation from Hamilton County GIS and Commissioner Johnson seconding.

Under New Business Administrator Jackson addressed the Purge. She said that the purge should have occurred a couple of months ago, but the voter registration system is still not set for the purge program. It is a decision for the Commission to say whether we proceed with the purge. Her plans were to go through the updating for this election and then do the purge. She understands what the County Commission is saying that there is not enough time politically, but until someone tells her differently and says do not it she must go forward with it. The purge should be done 90 days before the August election. Jerry Summers suggested that they make their decision in which they believe is most conformative to their duties as Election Commissioners and what we believe the law is that requires the Administrator of Elections to do on this subject then address the County Commission when the time comes. Mr. Summers said that Commissions obligation under law might be different than from what some members of the County

Commissioners want to do and hopefully they will understand that.

The County Commission office has requested CD's of each district so that they will not have to come here each time. Commissioner Kliner said that there is another problem with the CD's and that is they don't have the information that these people are looking for. They are not getting prior voting history that they have asked for. He made mention of Chris Clem who ordered a CD with 1998 and 2000 primary voters and they were identical. There was no key to it and if we are not providing what we need to provide then we should not be collecting money for it. Commissioner Kliner said that there needs to be a form to fill out so that we know exactly what is wanted, such as district, county wide, inactive or active, voting history and if so what do you want etc. Commissioner Johnson said that she felt that they could not charge everybody else for CD's and just give the County Commission office one. After much discussion it was decided to give the County Commission a CD if it were not for political purposes.

The budget was the next item to be discussed. Carolyn asked about the longevity bonus and if the Commission wanted to put in the monies for it this next year. Commissioner Kliner asked if they wanted outside assistance. Fran said that she had met with the Personnel Director and also with Ron Swafford because Ron has the county pay plan in place and also with Judy Medearis who does not. Basically what the county pay plan does is to bring everyone up to a level. All here in this office are deputies. So basically, everyone here does the same thing and that is to work on the voter registration and to make sure registrations are properly done and to put on elections that are properly carried out. The pay plan puts everyone level, so if there is an employee under the pay plan and they have been here 20 years and their pay is \$35,000.00 and the new employee would be hired in at \$35,000.00. The longevity pay which is \$50.00 per year for everyone who has worked for at least 5 years and up to 20 years for the county. The employee who has been with the county 20 years receives \$1000.00, but after deductions gets only about \$600.00. Fran feels that if they decide that someone is doing an exceptional job then 6 months from now we can go in and give them a merit raise under the pay plan you can not do that. Also, the employees might not get another raise for 3-5 years except if they qualify under the longevity plan. Outside the pay plan the employees, if not a raise would get an automatic cost of living raise. Under the pay plan anyone who was applying for a job would have to be processed totally through personnel department. Commissioner Walden said he feels that they should stay with our autonomy and do it all here. He doesn't know how personnel would feel when asked how they voted. Commissioner Kliner asked about going to the County Commission to approve the

Budget he can see a question being raised. He asked what the justification for the adjusted raises for the base salaries from \$20,000 to \$30,000. Fran said that she had looked at Judy Medearis office and the base salary for the staff in her office as a Deputy clerk just coming in without experience at entry level was \$28,000.45. Commissioner Kliner asked if they should get an outside consultant or should Fran diligently work on that. Chairman Waller said he was against outside consultants. He feels Fran should go on and continue on that path and find out what the comparable salaries are and that they as a body have the right to set comparative salaries. Fran said that the consultants the County used for this pay plan would take 3-4 months and you would be getting past this budget.

Fran told the Commission the deputy positions that were vacant should be raised to \$30,000.00. The Republicans do not have Voting Machine Technician or a Computer Technician. Commissioner Kliner asked who was currently the Voting Machine Technician and was told that it was Scott Allen. Fran also said that they needed a balance in the computer room. The need is for 2 full time employees and 1 skimp employee. Fran had a question about Scott Allen and Steve Gaston as to their salaries. She feels that Scott should be up to \$28,000.00 because he has been here longer and is the one training Steve. She feels the \$20,000.00 entry salary is extremely low.

After much discussion on the different line items 9019 was discussed because this is for 20 new voting machines for the 20 new voting precincts. Fran told the Commission the PC's that are being used by the staff are extremely old and will not last much longer. She also said that we needed to have access to E-mail through the county.

Commissioner Johnson made the motion to accept the budget as presented and discussed with Commissioner Kennedy seconding.

Administrator Jackson told the Commission that the voting machines needed to be ordered now for the August election.

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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Chairman Tyrone Waller

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Commissioner Linda Johnson

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Commissioner William Kennedy

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Commissioner Wesley Kliner

