

**HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
February 19, 2008**

Call to Order:

Upon notice duly given, Chairperson Eddington called to order a regularly scheduled meeting of the Hamilton County Election Commission at 8:00 a.m. on February 19, 2008 at the office of the Hamilton County Election Commission, 700 River Terminal Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Moment of Silence:

Pledge of Allegiance: Secretary Quinn

Present at Meeting:

Chairperson Eddington, Commissioner's Quinn, Polk, Rowe and Walden were present at the meeting. Attorney Jerry Summers, and the staff of the Election Commission as well as members of the community and media.

Minutes:

Commissioner Walden made a motion to approve the minutes from the meetings of February 5, 2008. Secretary Quinn seconded. They were unanimously approved.

New Business:

Certifying the February 5, 2008 Election.

Commissioner Rowe stated that he would like to address the training process for the elections.

Administrator Knowles stated that some of the precinct workers wait till they are down to 25 ballots to call in. They should call in when they are down to 100 ballots so we have time to get ballots to them. He also stated that he would see that the precinct workers did a better job the next election.

Secretary Quinn made a motion to certify the report made by independent certified accountants. Commissioner Walden seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Administrator Knowles stated that he is in the process of transferring the Brainerd precinct from the Rec. Center to the Brainerd Baptist Church. This will help in the confusion I believe. I will bring it up at the next meeting for your approval.

Legal Matters:

There were no legal matters to discuss at this time.

Attorney Summers stated that he did write the letter and sent a copy to Bud and Charlotte regarding the Marti Rutherford matter, transferring the material I had and the material we accumulated and the recommendation. That is all I have.

Chairperson Eddington asked did any of the visitors have anything to say.

John Bailes Chairman of the Democratic Party in Hamilton County addressed the commission. He stated that he wanted to read a statement and to thank all of you for putting on the election, we know it isn't an easy task. SEE ATTACHED:

Chairperson Eddingtn asked Administrator Knowles if he wanted to respond to the hotline that is being requested.

Administrator Knowles stated that he has been in contact with the county telecommunications department and we will have 10 lines for the citizens and 8 for the precincts. Chairperson Eddington asked about the 80% of ballots being ready. Administrator Knowles stated that he had the ballots ready but there is only so much in a tub to send to the precinct, and it is their responsibility to call and let us know they need ballots before they run out. It has been about a year and a half and they have gotten lax in their job but they will do a better job in Aug I will see to it. Chairperson Eddington asked about the website information and Administrator Knowles stated that it is up to date.

Chairperson Eddington then asked did anyone else have anything to say.

Donna Golden addressed the commission and stated that she has always voted early and this time she had to vote on election day. She stated that she asked for a democratic ballot and was told there wasn't any. She asked for the officer of elections and was told there wasn't one. So she asked who was in charge. After talking to the person in charge she was allowed to vote a democratic ballot. Administrator Knowles stated he has spoken to the man at the precinct and he has been reassigned and would be watched closely this time and if there were anymore problems he would be fired.

Commissioner Walden asked if Mrs. Golden would be interested in working that precinct. She said that she would not like to work Mr. Whitner.

Justin Wilkins stated that if Administrator Knowles believed Mrs. Golden then why wait until it happened again why not fire him now? Administrator Knowles stated that he believes in giving a second chance. I would like a plan in place before the next election.

Larry Bates, Thank you for allowing me to speak. I wrote a letter to Mr. Knowles a letter and when he received it, he called me and apologized. I am not looking for an apology; I am looking for something to be done. If I may I would like to read that letter into the minutes. SEE ATTACHED:

I am Alan Ritchelson and I live in Brainerd and have worked in the polls around Brainerd for 20 plus years and I'd like to commend you on the moving of Brainerd Rec. Center. There are four precincts in a half mile radius and I have never seen the confusion as such on election day. There is confusion on the part of the people on where to vote, and on the inside on the part of the workers. I think this is a great step, and I appreciate your commitment to correct these issues.

Duffy Hutson addressed the commission. He stated that he was a poll watcher for the Berz and Obama Campaigns. I did forward on two letters at the New Covenant Fellowship.

There was confusion, and people being told they could not vote. I was also at Sunny side.

Secretary Quinn stated that on behalf of the commission, he would like to apologize for an inconvenience that was caused to the public. Personally, I would like to apologize to each of you who have experienced these problems. I think it is important that you show up and vote. I think that is important that we remember that while we do have a few bad apples the rest do a very good job. With that being said, I would like to make a motion at this time that Mr. Knowles prepare a memorandum to the commission with bullet points as to what you intend to do to correct the problems that have been voiced here today. At the next meeting we can discuss them and go from there, but at this point I would like to formally make that motion.

Commissioner Walden seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Chairperson Eddington asked if anyone had anything else to say.

Adjournment:

Secretary Quinn made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Walden seconded.

Next Meeting:

There was no meeting scheduled at this time.

J. Bartlett Quinn Secretary

Approved:

Dorothy Eddington Chairperson

Sharlotte Polk Commissioner

Joe Rowe Commissioner

Michael S. Walden Commissioner