

**HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
March 5, 2013**

Call to Order:

Upon notice duly given, Chairman Walden called to order a regularly scheduled meeting of the Hamilton County Election Commission at 6:40 pm on March 5, 2013 at the office of the Hamilton County Election Commission, 700 River Terminal Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee

Moment of Silence

Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman Walden

Present at Meeting:

Commissioners Walden, Anderson, Braly, Crangle, Summers and Attorney Clem were present at the meeting, as well as staff of the Election Commission, members of the auditing firm.

Approval of Minutes:

Secretary Summers made a motion to accept the minutes.
Commissioner Braly seconded.

New Business:

Administrator Mullis-Morgan gave a handout about senate bill 907 regarding voting centers. She then stated that there is also an estimate on how much it would cost to have the voting centers. Please take this and then let's talk about it.

Secretary Summers asked was this a savings or is it additional? What is it?

Administrator Morgan stated that it will be more to start and then it will be a savings.

Secretary Summers asked that instead of having 95 precincts we would combine them all into these central voting centers?

Chairman Walden stated that yes there would be 15 centers.

Secretary Summers asked what kind of an impact will this have on voters to get to them and where would they be located.

Chairman Walden stated this commission will decide where and how many of them we will have. This is just a ballpark best guess as to where the 15 locations would be and what the upfront costs would be. \$70,000 up front if this bill is passed etc.,

Secretary Summers stated that cost is second and very important but I think the first thing is the ease of the voters getting to the locations.

Chairman Walden stated that two counties did a trial run and Knox county was one of them and all went well.

Attorney Clem asked did this happen during early voting too?

Administrator Morgan stated that the state legislature is now working on this and at this point they are saying early voting sites and these centers on election day. If we are going to have centers, they should open on the first day of early voting and go all the way through election day.

Chairman Walden stated that there are nine county districts, so basically you would have a voting site in each district and then the 11-15 could be depending upon the area.

Administrator Morgan stated this is just a pilot program. They sent this to me and I wanted you to have it so you would have time to look it over and discuss it. She further stated that she would like to have the certification on Monday March 25, 2013 @8:00am.

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The commission agreed.

Commissioner Anderson asked if there would be email reminders?

Laura Mullins stated that yes there would be.

Legal Matters:

Attorney Clem stated that there will probably be a lawsuit depending how the outcome is on the Elder Mtn issue no matter which side wins. As you may recall the Littlefield recall lawsuit, the City of Chattanooga paid my entire legal bill for that and they will need to pay my entire bill on this Elder Mtn. lawsuit also. John Konvalinka has gone wild with Susan Rich, they have filed numerous depositions and numerous court hearings, they have appealed two of the cases. There will actually be three cases. There are two cases we have already had, the judge bifurcated them and both have appealed to the court of appeals, and I filed about a three sentence brief saying I don't care, I defer to the city of Chattanooga, and I filed that with the court of appeals. I do expect the losers of this election to file suit either later this week or next week. The media knows about it and they don't care. I am going to let the City of Chattanooga attorneys handle this and I think I will even file a motion to let me not even have to drive up there.

Chairman Walden asked if anyone else had anything else to bring to the table.

Adjournment

Commissioner Braly made a motion to adjourn

Commissioner Crangle seconded

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday March 25, 2013 @8:00

APPROVED:

Jerry Summers Secretary

Michael S. Walden Chairman

James Anderson Commissioner

Ruth Braly Commissioner

Tommy Crangle Commissioner