

MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Call to order:

Upon notice duly given, Chairman Walden called to order a meeting of the Hamilton County Election Commission at 8 a.m. on April 9, 2014 at the office of the Hamilton County Election Commission, 700 River Terminal Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Invocation: **Commissioner Braly**

Pledge of Allegiance: **Chairman Walden**

Present at Meeting:

Commissioners Walden, Summers, Braly, Clem, and Scott were present at the meeting, as well as Gail Roppo from Hamilton County Purchasing, staff of the Election Commission, and members of the media.

Approval of Minutes:

Chairman Walden asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes. They look so much better now.

Commissioner Braly made a motion to approve the minutes.

Secretary Summers seconded.

All approved.

New Business:

Chairman Walden introduced Gail Roppo from the Hamilton County Purchasing Department. **Gail Roppo** said Administrator Steelman and Chief Deputy Mullis-Morgan asked her to come over and talk about the purchasing process in general and more specifically how it relates to the process of doing a proposal for printing ballots. She said the normal process for bids and proposals is virtually the same. The purchasing department creates the bid or proposal based on the needed specifications and advertises that on the department's behalf. For just a straight bid it would typically be a 10 day requirement; however, proposals usually take more time because the Purchasing Department asks more questions. In this instance, we would want to ask questions such as what are the vendor's certifications, references and financials, and things that are important to the Election Commission such as how would they deal with an issue with the ballot in the middle of an election. It's usually four weeks to get proposals in, before evaluation even starts. She said she and Dominion both recommend that first a vendor become certified, and then submit a number of sample ballots for testing on the machines. Then Steelman, Mullis-Morgan and Allen would evaluate the proposals and select the ones they wish to pass on to first the Election Commission, then the County Commission. She recommends a multi-year bid for something like this. She suggested that we stay with our current printer, Midwest, for the remainder of this election cycle and in the fall do an invitation to invite printers to get certified in Tennessee. There are 10 to 12 printers certified on this equipment, but Midwest is the only one currently certified in the state of Tennessee. After the invitation, we can do a bid, also in the fall, so we can fit it around the elections. Then we can take our time making a decision before the next election cycle.

Commissioner Scott said he has no issue with that. His only issue is that at an earlier meeting the commission discussed having open bids for the printing. He said the commission should

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have received this information for clarification right after they said they wanted an open bid. It has never been explained like you just explained it. That makes logical sense.

Chairman Walden asked Administrator Steelman for an update on the Chris Anderson recall petition.

Administrator Steelman said the Election Commission had received 444 signatures. Of those, 249 were good and 195 were rejected for various reasons.

Chairman Walden asked when was the last date for the signatures?

Administrator Steelman said today was the last date.

Attorney Taylor added that he was in court yesterday and the state's position is the petitioners have until April 29 because that's the 75th day from when the petition was approved.

Legal Matters:

Attorney Taylor gave an update on the court case concerning the Anderson recall petition. He said he had filed an answer with Judge Hollingsworth, but there has been no answer yet from the state or the City of Chattanooga, which have been brought into the lawsuit. We are waiting on them to respond. He said [Anderson's attorney] Stuart James recognizes if there are not enough signatures the issue may be moot.

Secretary Summers asked until they have enough signatures, is there even standing with the lawsuit?

Attorney Taylor said he filed an answer with the court because an answer was due.

Secretary Summers asked if that was necessary to do that before they have standing.

Attorney Taylor said he filed a motion to dismiss because the proper parties weren't involved in the lawsuit and that's when the state and city were brought in.

Secretary Summers said that's where he and Taylor differ. Summers said he thinks it was not necessary to bring in other parties until there were enough signatures for the recall.

Attorney Taylor said Hollingsworth knows it's not a judiciable issue yet but we are proceeding through some things and the city is going to file an answer. He said he feels it was necessary and Hollingsworth hasn't said that we didn't need to do it. He said Hollingsworth is mindful that his stay in the last recall case was overturned by the Court of Appeals and that's why he's proceeding as-is.

Other business:

Administrator Steelman said all the new equipment is here. And Dominion is coming today to pick up the remaining portion they took on trade-in.

Chairman Walden asked if we were ready for Early Voting on April 16.

Administrator Steelman said yes. Nursing home voting started yesterday and is going well. Steelman also invited the commissioners to be trained on the new equipment if they would like.

Commissioner Braly asked if we have all the workers that we need.

Administrator Steelman said yes. Over last week and a half 248 poll workers and poll officers have come in for training. The response to the new equipment has been overwhelmingly positive.

Chairman Walden asked about approval of the poll workers.

Commissioner Braly asked if the pollworkers were mostly the same from previous elections.

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Assistant Administrator Allen said yes. There are five to 10 new officers, but that's it.

Chairman Walden asked for a motion to approve the pollworkers.

Commissioner Braly said she would like to look at a list of the pollworkers first.

Chairman Walden said the next meeting will be the evening of Election Day, May 6. The commission will set a date at that time to meet to certify the election.

The commission took a short recess while waiting for a list of pollworkers.

The commission reconvened after the list was printed.

Chairman Walden asked if the new officers of election had been certified in accordance with our training program.

Assistant Administrator Allen said yes.

Commissioner Clem made a motion to approve pollworkers as presented.

Commissioner Braly seconded the motion.

All present were in favor, Secretary Summers and Commissioner Scott were not present.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Clem made a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Braly seconded.

All present were in favor.

APPROVED:

Jerry Summers

Secretary

Michael S. Walden

Chairman

Ruth Braly

Commissioner

Chris Clem

Commissioner

Kelvin Scott

Commissioner