

## **Marion County Election Board Meeting Minutes April 2, 2008**

**Members Present:** Chairman Mark K. Sullivan; Vice-Chairman Patrick Dietrick; Secretary Elizabeth L. “Beth” White

**Others Present:** Andy Mallon, Director of Elections; Tenley Drescher-Rhoades, Counsel to the Election Board; Terry Burns; Cindy Mowery, Republican Board Member of the Voter’s Registration; John Riordan, Democratic Board Member of Voter’s Registration; Jenny Troutman; Dan Fair, Michael Weiseman; Angie Nussmeyer; Ladonna Freeman; Dan, MCRP; Lori Wright.

- I. Call to Order.** Chairman Sullivan called the meeting to order and introduced the agenda. Clerk White provided election updates. There were currently 556 confirmed inspectors, and 1500 absentee ballots had been mailed to voters.
- II. Election Information:** Clerk White provided election updates. There were 556 confirmed inspectors, and 1500 absentee ballots had been mailed to voters. Clerk White described the election using a car analogy. The Election Board drives the car. The Mayor’s Office is the tires. GIS is the gauge, and SVRS is the engine of the car. She noted that starting 1/1/08, the engine was rebuilt due to reprecincting. Clerk White stated the car is now back on the road and on track.
- III. Voter’s Registration Update:** Clerk White requested an update from Voter’s Registration (VR). John Riordan reviewed the issue concerning 1000 registration cards with errors mailed to voters. He reiterated that the problem had not only been discovered, but amended. He indicated the massive number of phone calls about the cards. Mr. Riordan continued with Clerk White’s car analogy to state he felt Voter’s Registration was the exhaust of a car and the Election Board is the transmission. He informed the Board of VR’s plan to make sure all voters were in the correct place on Election Day. VR was in the process of reviewing maps from GIS and developing keys to determine precincts.

Cindy Mowery reviewed the number of new voter registrations entered. VR had entered 13,427 bringing the total this year to 29214 new registrants. The current number of registered voters in Marion County was 632,957. Ms. Mowery acknowledged the 4/29/08 deadline for the VR to have the poll books for the election to the Election Board warehouse. She noted the 16 to 20 temporary workers employed by VR, thanking Ladonna Freeman for her efforts in recruiting them. Ms. Mowery assured the Board that the precinct key was correct. She also explained the lag time between entering a new registration and becoming an “active” voter. A registrant would be pending for 7 days. The registration postcards are printed immediately, allowing 7 days for the voter to receive the card and confirm. While a voter is in pending status, they cannot be included on the poll book. Clerk White took a moment

to note that those registering on 4/7/08 would need to allow for the 7 day pending status to end before applying for an absentee ballot. Ms. Mowery inquired to the status of the VR monitor and investigation. Chairman Sullivan and Clerk White informed VR that the investigation is not over and there was no new information to share at the moment.

**IV. Contract Ratification:** The Board also reviewed contracts for specialists to be used to augment the Election Board staff for the Primary Election.

The first contract was for Ms. Allison Gritton. Ms. Gritton would be contracted for Inspector Communication and Recruitment. Mr. Mallon provided a brief background about Ms. Gritton. He also provided a job description of: working with the political parties and groups to recruit inspectors, prevent inspector cancellations, ensure inspector curriculum matches election day materials, ensure nothing slips through the cracks, all ranging from first hand data entry to a supervisory role. Clerk White motioned to ratify Ms. Gritton's contract, and the motion passed unanimously.

The second contract amendment was for Elect Staffing. It was a modification of the current contract. Elect Staffing would provide specialized temporary election staff. Mr. Mallon noted the public test deadline would occur three weeks from 4/1/08 and stressed the importance of meeting all deadlines. He also noted the savings of \$500 a day per person by using Elect Staffing. Clerk White motioned to approve the Elect Staffing contract amendment, and the motion passed unanimously.

The third contract was for Mr. James Osborn. Mr. Osborn would be conducting inspector training, as well as being responsible for answering inspector questions through the hotline service beginning 4/14/08. It was emphasized how important it is to have one person, inclusive of Clerk White, in charge of the inspector training. Clerk White motioned to approve Mr. Osborn's contract, and the motion passed unanimously.

The fourth contract was for Ms. Lisa Patton. Ms. Patton would be assisting in the inspector training by organizing and maintaining materials, media and supplies. Clerk White motioned to approve Ms. Patton's contract, and the motion passed unanimously.

The fifth contract was for Ms. Lori Wright. Ms. Wright would concentrate on organization the weekend before the election by distributing signs at previously used polling locations, which would state the new location, coordinate entry to each polling site for inspectors, and assess the needed number of chairs and tables for each site. Clerk White motioned to approve Ms. Wright's contract, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Sullivan took a moment to note that these contracts would be funded by the regular budget, except for the Elect Staffing amendment. He noted the Office of Finance and Management would be receiving a request to pay for the 3/11/08 Special Election.

- V. **Ratification of Ballots.** Chairman Sullivan began by explaining the fact that there are 3,700 ballot styles, including Democratic, Republican, 17-Year Old Democratic and Republican, and School Board Only ballots and splits for each precinct. Chairman Sullivan inquired as to how these ballots were checked. Mr. Mallon stated that Election Board staff and Elect Staffing proofed the ballots; each ballot was reviewed 8 times. The Board continued discussion about ballots, noted candidates would only be placed on the ballot for contested races and all School Board candidates would be placed on the back side of the ballot. Clerk White motioned to ratify the ballots, and the motion passed unanimously.
- VI. **Absentee Ballots.** Clerk White explained state statute requires absentee ballots to be sent out 40 days prior to Election Day, but due to circumstances beyond the Election Board staff's control, the ballots were distributed one day late. Clerk White requested the board ratify this decision. The motion passed unanimously.
- VII. **Adjournment.** Clerk White made a call for more volunteers to become inspectors. Chairman Sullivan motioned for adjournment and closed today's meeting.

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Chairman, Mark K. Sullivan

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Vice Chairman, Patrick Dietrick

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Secretary, Elizabeth L. White