

Marion County Election Board Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2008

Members Present: Chairman Mark Sullivan; Vice Chairman Patrick Dietrick; Secretary Elizabeth "Beth" White

Others Present: Andy Mallon, Director of Elections; Tenley Drescher-Rhoades, Counsel to the Election Board.

- I. Call to Order:** Chairman Sullivan called the meeting to order and introduced agenda.

- II. Ratification of New Hires:** Introduced by Madame Clerk Beth White. Mrs. White explained the positions and credentials of the two new hires, Mr. Michael Weisman for the position of Deputy Director of Warehouse Operations and Ms. Sue Gilstrap for the position of Receptionist/ Office Manager. She explained that these positions were neither new or open positions but that old seasonal or part-time line positions had been converted to full time positions for the sake of continuity for the office and the public. Both positions were ratified by the board by unanimous vote.

- III. Ratification of Contracts:** Mr. Mallon discussed the relevance for the contracts of: Dunhill Staffing, Special Election Consultants, Yellow Cab, Elite Transcon Inc & Grand Rental Station.

First Contract Issue dealt with Dunhill Staffing was shown to have relevance in that they have loyally provided staff for short term, short notice situations in a very effective manner. Clerk White moved for the continuance of this contract and the motion passes unanimously.

Second Contract Issue dealt with Special Election Consultants were revealed to be Robert Vain and Susana Overhold. They hold these positions due the necessity of maintaining focus on Special Elections as both preparation for Special Election and Primary Election were being performed simultaneously. Clerk White moved for the continuance of this contract and the motion passes unanimously.

Third Contract Issue dealt with Yellow Cab which is the transportation vendor was shown to have relevance in that their purpose was to transport travelling boards, commissioner, absentee ballots, supplies and emergency staff to various locations on election day. Clerk White moved for the continuance of this contract and the motion passes unanimously.

Fourth Contract Issue dealt with Elite Transcon Inc. is the company that deals with the Election Board moving scenarios, in that they deliver the voting machines and move materials from the designated sites to the warehouse. Grand Rental Station is the vendor that deals in the necessity for tables and chairs. They are contacted when specific locations do not have nor provide tables and chairs. Clerk White moved for the continuance of this contract and the motion passes unanimously.

IV. Central Count Issue: Mr. Mallon reviewed the situation surrounding the Precinct Consolidation plans and its affect on the upcoming Special Election (due to the death of Congresswoman Julia Carson) as well the upcoming Primary Election. It was stated the Precinct Consolidation plan would not affect the voters in any way except that it is renaming the precinct in which one votes and that it may cause new polling locations. He stated that due to the reduction of precincts from 914 to 590 that the machines needed to be reprogrammed thus due to the amount of time it takes to test and reprogram each machine that there will not be ample time to do the necessary tasks for the them to be fully prepared by the time of the Special Election and that the turn around time from Special Election to Primary Election was not sufficient for the reprogramming to be done twice.

Indiana Code provides a contingency plan for such a situation, which states that the county can do a central count of the ballots. Mr. Mallon discussed that there will be ballot boxes in place instead of machines and he discussed the process in which the ballots will be counted and transported.

Counsel to the Elections Board Tenley Drescher-Rhoades briefly discussed the Action Items to the Resolution regarding Central Counting. Clerk White moved to close. Vice-President Dietrick questioned whether it was a close call or an actual impossibility to get the machines properly tested and ready in time for the election. A questioned was posed from the floor as to call attention to the optimal way to reduce tampering and be aware of ballot security. Clerk White responded with a reiteration of the efforts of the staff and the initial issue of there simply not being enough time for deployment of the machines. Clerk White move to close discussion of Resolution 1-08. It was not unanimous. Questions were taken from the floor.

V. Adjournment: Chairman Sullivan motioned for adjournment and closed today's meeting.

Chairman, Mark K. Sullivan

Vice Chairman, Patrick Dietrick

Secretary, Elizabeth L. White