

## **Marion County Election Board Meeting Minutes October 15, 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, Myla Eldridge, Deputy Director of Elections; Angie Nussmeyer, Cindy Mowery; Laurel Judkins; Jenny Troutman; Drew Carlson; LaDonna Freeman

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman Sullivan called the meeting to order and introduced the agenda.
  
- II. **Ratification of Election Board Meeting Minutes from the October 1, 2008 Meeting:** The past meeting minutes were present and accounted for. After a review of the minutes, Vice Chairman Dietrick mentioned that Mr. Robert Vane was not in attendance at the last meeting for himself. V.C. Dietrick was present at the last meeting. After careful review of the content, Madame Clerk motioned to approve ratification of previous Board Meeting Minutes provided. Chairman Sullivan seconded. It passed unanimously.
  
- III. **2008 General Election Public Notice:** Chairman Sullivan states that it is required by statute that the Public Notice is to be reviewed. Madame Clerk and Vice Chairman both acknowledge that it has been reviewed. Madame Clerk White describes the 2008 General Election Public Notice. It is a general notice that states the hours in which election will be occurring; all the offices that will appear on the ballot; and the public notice questions that will appear on the ballots. It's a notice what will appear on the ballot to the public. Madame Clerk motioned to approve the Public Notice. Vice Chairman Dietrick seconded. It passed unanimously.
  
- IV. **Contract (Morgan Decker):** Chairman Sullivan states there is a contract to be approved for Morgan Decker. Andy Mallon describes the contract of Morgan Decker, which is an extension of contract that is already in place for Ms. Decker. The Election Board hired Morgan Decker to be the absentee program consultant. Mr. Mallon mentions that Ms. Decker has worked tireless hours (80 hours/week) to make sure that absentee applications are processed. The new contract extends the hourly wage and to ensure she receives over time (after 40 hours to receive time and a half pay). Mr. Mallon wants to make sure to have Ms. Decker is covered and to keep her on for all the hours they expect to her to work. The contract adds \$4,000 to her contract. Madame Clerk asks if Morgan Decker approved the amount of \$4,000. Mr. Mallon acknowledges that Ms. Decker approves this amount.

Madame Clerk motioned to approve the contract of Morgan Decker. Vice Chairman Dietrick seconded. It passed unanimously.

- V. Election Information Update:** It is stated by Madame Clerk that the Election is 20 days away. Madame Clerk White states that is important to run an election with integrity: A free and fair election. The core principals for this election are: All eligible voters will be able to vote in this election; we will enforce all voter laws; no voter fraud will be allowed; and no voter shall be intimidated. Madame Clerk then mentions that the poll workers have a very big job ahead of them. It is stated that 820 confirmed inspectors have signed up to work the polls. Madame Clerk mentions that we will provide the poll workers with the training, the tools and the support they are going to need. Madame Clerk states that it is important to get help and support from our partner government agencies such as the Mayor's office, congressional council office, building authority, sheriff's department (with ballot security), and IMPD. All of these agencies have been very helpful. Clerk White also mentions that Southport City Government and Washington Township Schools have been very cooperative with their satellite locations. Another agency, Voter's registration has been very helpful with all the incoming applications and processing those applications. Madame Clerk feels very good where they stand on the election process. She states that they have done everything they can do to make this election successful. Chairman Sullivan and Vice Chairman Dietrick announce their support of Madame Clerk's process. Andy Mallon goes on to describe the satellite voting process. Director Mallon states that satellite voting begins Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> at J. Everett Light Career Center and at the Southport Community Center. Mr. Mallon discusses the matter of which the ballots are handled. A memo was put together to discuss how the ballots are handled. The memo explains the following: Ballots will be printed on site at the satellite locations. The printers will be stored and locked up at the sites. The computers used to print and to look up voters will be password protected. The ballot on-demand blank papers will be locked and have restricted access. Once a ballot is voted, it is sealed in envelop, and then placed in a sealed in a plastic tub, then transferred by "Election Chairs" to the Election Board office by a taxi who is escorted by a Sheriff. The plastic tub is then placed in the Election Board locked closet. All absentee ballots will be delivered to their precincts on Election Day. Chairman Sullivan and Vice Chairman Dietrick announce their support and thanks of Director Mallon's procedures of all absentee ballots.
- Madame White states there are 686,066 registered voters. Clerk White mentions since the Primary Election, there have been 115,168 new or updated registrations in Marion County. Early absentee voting has started already. As of 5 p.m. yesterday, there have been a total of 21,495 absentee requests. Early voting numbers in the Clerks Office are at 3,852. This number will continue to increase. Madame Clerk states they already exceeded the total of mail in ballots from the Primary Election and will see the highest number of voters in Marion County history. Madame White mentions she is confident in all of the

election process and wants to thank all who is involved to make this process possible. Chairman Sullivan states his praise and thanks for all their help. Madame Clerk states that Marion County has been selected by the Justice Department in doing a random sampling of 8 precincts to monitor. A public test is occurring Monday at 9 am at the Election Board Warehouse on 68 N. Gale St. It is required to have a public test at least 2 weeks before Election Day. Director Mallon states that all poll machines will be tested to ensure they will work properly on Election Day.

Madame White mentions the Campaign Finance deadline for the candidates on the ballots is Friday at Noon.

Vice Chairman Dietrick goes over an email he received about the extended hours in the Clerk's office. Hours are extended from 8 am to 7 pm.

(previously office hours were 8am-5pm) Director Mallon reinstates that 2 hours were added for early voting and not of the Clerk's offices. The hours for the satellite locations are 11am to 7pm.

- VI. **Adjournment:** 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 Dietrich

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Secretary, Elizabeth L. White