



**Pulaski County Election Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2019
5:00 p.m.**

Members Present

Pat Hays
Joshua A. Price
Evelyn D. Gomez

Staff Present

Bryan Poe
Betty Green
Shawn Camp

Visitors Present: Jason Kennedy, Circuit/County Clerk's Office; Alex Gladden, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Pat Hays. A quorum was present, with all commissioners in attendance.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Gomez moved to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Commissioner Price. Motion passed by voice vote.

Business

Update on Voting Equipment Funding

Chair Hays and Director Poe have met with the Secretary of State's Office regarding the funding of new voting equipment. It is anticipated that the State of Arkansas is going to provide \$1,563,727.00 to fund new voting equipment. There are two stipulations to receive the money: (1) the equipment will have to be purchased through Election Systems and Software; (2) the equipment must be deployed in the 2020 elections. Monies are anticipated to be available by July 1, 2019.

Director Poe has obtained three estimates from Election Systems and Software for new equipment. (1) A one-to-one replacement of the new equipment for old equipment. Paper ballots will still be in use with this option. (2) A one-to-one replacement of the current machines and obtain electronic poll books. Option number

two would allow for the early voting sites to remain open on election day. (3) A one-to-one replacement of the current machines; obtain electronic poll books and ballot on demand to produce absentee ballots. Option number three would allow for the early voting sites to remain open on election day and reduce the excess printing of paper ballots.

Chair Hays and Director Poe have met with the County Judge Barry Hyde regarding obtaining assistance from Pulaski County to assist with funding the new equipment. They were told that funds are not available for Pulaski County to assist with this endeavor.

Chair Hays and Director Poe also met with the Circuit/County Clerk, Terri Hollingsworth regarding obtaining assistance from the clerk's office. The Circuit/County Clerk has agreed to work with the Election Commission to try to reallocate funds from the current year budgets for the Election Commission and the Circuit/County Clerk's office to fund the remaining balance.

Commissioner Gomez moved for Director Poe to approach the Pulaski County Quorum Court to attempt to obtain the funding for new equipment, for Commissioner Price to assist with this endeavor; seconded by Commissioner Price. Motion passed by voice vote.

Other Business

Legislative Summary Update

The bills passed during the recent legislative session that affect elections were discussed.

Voting Equipment Specialist

Pam Walker tendered her letter of resignation as Voting Equipment Specialist effective May 30, 2019. Commissioner Price moved for a two-tier interview process, whereby Director Poe will conduct interviews, narrow the list to the top three candidates and the Commissioners will interview the top three and provide their input; seconded by Commissioner Gomez. Motion passed by voice vote.

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

May 21, 2019 at 9:00 p.m. for the certification of the unofficial election results for the Jacksonville/North Pulaski School Election.

May 23, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. for the preliminary review of provisional ballots for the Jacksonville/North Pulaski School Election.

May 31, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. for the provisional ballot hearing and certification of election results for the Jacksonville/North Pulaski School election.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.