

**PULASKI COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2009
12:15 P.M.**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Kent Walker, Chairman
Ozell Snider, Commissioner
Phil Wyrick, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT

Melinda Allen
Tonya Washington
Bryan Poe

VISITORS: Amanda Dickens, Scott Price, Michael Razer, Susan Inman, Bobbie Cox

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Walker. A quorum was determined; all members present.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES, JULY 27, 2009 Approved as submitted.

Motion to approve meeting minutes by Commissioner Snider; seconded by Commissioner Wyrick. All in favor; motion passed unanimously.

**CERTIFICATION OF WRIGHTSVILLE MAYORAL SPECIAL ELECTION
SEPTEMBER 8, 2009**

The final results of the Wrightsville Mayoral Special Election were:

McKinzie "Mac" Riley	191
Patricia Rogers-Ward	131

Motion to approve final election results by Commissioner Wyrick; seconded by Commissioner Snider. All in favor; motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

The proposed 2010 budget for the Pulaski County Election Commission has been submitted to the Comptroller's office. Mrs. Allen noted that the 2010 budget was derived from the 2006 budget in that the elections will be similar. Final budget will be approved by the Quorum Court sometime in November 2009. Mrs. Allen will give commissioners periodic updates throughout the budget process.

Mrs. Allen noted that the budget presented is anticipated expenditures for 2010. The Commission absorbs the cost of election expenses on the front end but the county is reimbursed by the entities after elections. If during the year monies are exhausted, the commission can request funds to meet the needs of expenses incurred.

The question was asked why salaries were not included in the budget presented. Mrs. Allen noted that the Quorum Court determines all salaries as well as health insurance.

Chairman Walker asked if any of the voting equipment would be replaced by the Secretary of State's office. Mrs. Allen stated that she has talked with the SOS office regarding replacing voting booths. When the annual maintenance is conducted on all voting equipment, the booths will be replaced along with any machines that may need replacement as well.

Susan Inman introduced the Arkansas County Election Commissions Association (ACECA), a statewide non-profit association formed to assist election commissioners in all Arkansas counties in conducting elections. The association will also help commissioners stay abreast of imminent changes in election laws so changes won't become law without commissioner's knowledge.

The ACECA board currently consists of Ms. Inman and two former Pulaski County Election Commissioners, Ron Oliver and Jerry Larkowski, who will step down once the board is established and has active board members. A website and email for the association have been established: www.ARelectioncommissions.org and email: info@arelectioncommissions.org. The current changes in election laws are posted on the website for all counties to view.

Ms. Inman noted that the first meeting for the association will take place on October 31, 2009 in the Pulaski County Regional Building, Jeffrey Hawkins Conference Room from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.. The meeting will be a brainstorming session to hear what commissioners around the state want the association to do for them. The ACECA will also hope to hold at least one annual meeting a year. For 2010, the goal is to have the first annual meeting in January to get all counties on the same page for next years elections. The state board of election commissions and the secretary of state's office is aware of the association and is very supportive of the need for this entity.

Membership fees are \$200.00 annually for each county commission and \$25.00 for each associate member (staff, etc.) County memberships have been received from Chicot, Grant, Saline, Independence and Hot Spring counties. By joining now, membership will extend throughout December 2010. There will be a wealth of information available to all counties through an association newsletter, links from the website to other information and other supportive resources.

Commissioner Wyrick asked what would be the need for such an association. Ms. Inman stated that Pulaski County is fortunate in having a full time staff assist commissioners in conducting elections. In smaller counties, elections are conducted by the election commissioners in association with the county clerk. These are counties in Arkansas where commissioners do their jobs but don't really know how to do the job and don't have anybody to help them or give them accurate information.

Commissioner Wyrick asked if this association would fall under the Association of Arkansas Counties. Ms. Inman explained that election commissioners have no support because they are not elected. She noted that once the association is established the Association of Arkansas Counties may take it under their umbrella.

Chairman Walker explained that the AAC is a statutory agency funded, in part, by the state. The statute would have to be amended to allow the county election commission to become a part of the AAC. Ms. Inman noted that there is no voice for election commissioners in the legislature. When legislation is promoted and passed, it pretty much done by the AAC. She said there have been election laws passed with

no voice, no say by county election commissioners. With the ACECA commissioners will get to review proposed legislation well before it's up for passage.

Mrs. Allen believes that once the association is formed that funding will come because of the support that will be garnered throughout the state by election commissioners.

Commissioner Wyrick requested delay to have more time to digest the need for this association and that it's not another unnecessary addition to bureaucracy. Commissioner Snider is concerned that a mission statement has not been established and the likelihood of it being developed during the first meeting. Ms. Inman stated that the meeting would be structured. She felt it important that the mission should be established by the members it represents because the ultimate goal for the association is meant to help and give commissioners across the state the tools to do their jobs effectively. She also stated that Chairman Walker tried to get an organization such as the ACECA established a few years ago, received support across the state, but there was not entity to take it or built it and no one had the time to build it.

Meeting adjourned.