

March 3, 2022

MINUTES: CALHOUN COUNTY ELECTIONS COMMISSION MEETING, TUESDAY MARCH 1, 2022 at 1:30pm

LOCATION: Calhoun County building, Boardroom 2-100A, 315 W Green St, Marshall MI 49068

CALL TO ORDER: 1:42pm. Judge Jaconette called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone in attendance, explained the reason for today's meeting, notified the room that the meeting was being recorded and minutes taken.

ROLL CALL: by Election Specialist Jill Stout: Present: Clerk Hinkley, Treasurer Wensauer, Judge Jaconette

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Treasurer Wensauer, 2nd by Clerk Hinkley. Passed

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Treasurer Wensauer, 2nd by Clerk Hinkley. Passed.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

REVIEW BALLOT CONTENT: 2 precincts open, 3 ballot styles, 4 ballot proposals.

CLIMAX-SCOTT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS: 2 Operating Millage Proposals (a renewal & a new millage assessment). **Clerks recommendation** – Consolidate Climax-Scott Community Schools at same location (Leroy Township pct. #1 to include Battle Creek City pct. #20) . Clerk Hinkley shared that the Leroy Township has 257 registered Climax-Scott registered voters, Battle Creek City has 92 Climax-Scott registered voters. **DISCUSSION:** *Clerk Hinkley:* Kalamazoo County Clerk decided to not consolidate the election at the Climax-Scott location this time, requiring the Calhoun County (Leroy & Battle Creek precincts) to open on election day & run the election for the school system. *Judge Jaconette* inquired as to why Kalamazoo County did not want to coordinate/consolidate? *Clerk Hinkley:* The Clerk in Kalamazoo chose not to coordinate/consolidate because there is a Kalamazoo County wide proposal on the ballot, and she did not want the Kalamazoo jurisdiction clerks to have to have the additional concern that a Kalamazoo County ballot may be mistakenly given to a Calhoun County resident, and the Kalamazoo Clerk is not in favor of the schools putting their proposals on a May ballot.

GULL LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS: 1 Sinking Fund Millage Renewal. **Clerks recommendation** – Open Bedford pct. #1 for election day. Clerk Hinkley shared that the Bedford Township has 1888 Gull Lake Community School registered voters, so, regardless whether Kalamazoo had coordinated/consolidated, Bedford pct. #1 would have had to be open due to the number of Gull Lake Community School voters.

HASTINGS AREA SCHOOL SYSTEM: 1 Bonding Proposal. **Clerks recommendation** - Because Bedford pct. #1 is open on election day for the Gull Lake Community Schools proposal, the Hastings Area School System proposal should also be run at Bedford pct. #1 even though Hastings was willing to coordinate/consolidate the election. Bedford Township has 82 Hastings Area School System registered voters.

HILLSDALE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT: 1 Millage Proposal. **Clerks recommendation** – Hilldale County Clerks Office is coordinating the election and is allowing the voters in the Homer Township to vote at the City of Litchfield pct. #1. Homer Township clerk will be responsible for the voter notification of change of location, sending AV ballot applications, and delivering AV ballots to the City of Litchfield precinct on election day after the polls close. Clerk Hinkley shared that Homer Township has 53 Hilldale County Intermediate School District registered voters.

MOTION: A motion was made by Judge Jaconette to: “adopt the Clerks recommendations to allow the consolidation of the Climax-Scott voters to the same location in Leroy Township, and allow Homer Township to “opt-out” and consolidate with Litchfield City to be open for the Hillsdale County Intermediate School District voters. 2nd by Treasurer Wensauer.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Clerk Hinkley – Yes
Treasurer Wensauer – Yes
Judge Jaconette – Yes

Motion passed 3 – 0

REVIEW BALLOT PRINTING BIDS: 3 RFP sent by Election Specialist Jill Stout, 2 quotes received. Plerus declined to quote this election due to staffing and short notice before ballot deadline. Pricing received included Election Source: \$0.42 for 11” ballots with no color. And \$0.46 for a red stripe for the Bedford Township election to distinguish the Hastings County ballots from the Kalamazoo County ballots. Adding a pre-folding charge of \$0.06. Spectrum Printers: \$0.295 for 11” ballots. Adding a pre-folding charge of \$0.080. There is no additional charge for red stripe (numbering) for the Bedford Township precinct.

Clerk Hinkley recommendation: Previous election turn-out for similar elections were compared to determine the number of ballots ordered. A 25% increase in ballots was figured. Clerk Hinkley also asked the commission to consider the option of allowing the Elections office to order additional ballots if needed 2 weeks prior to the election.

DISCUSSION: *Judge Jaconette:* commented that option should always be on the table and not require additional approval. *Bedford Township Clerk Joyce Feraco:* Is Election Source using Colleen at PMG for their ballots? *Clerk Hinkley:* I do not believe so. *Bedford Township Clerk Joyce Feraco:* I like to try to keep it local. *Clerk Hinkley:* I do not think she is doing ballot printing. *Clerk Hinkley:* Is Bedford Township satisfied with the ballot quantities estimated? *Bedford Township Clerk Joyce Feraco:* Leave the quantities where they are at. *Judge Jaconette:* (asking question to Tim Allhouse – Representative for Spectrum Printers) Do you have any thoughts on why the bids are so different? *Tim Allhouse:* We are direct printers; all of our printing is done in house. Election Source send their ballots to a printer in Springfield, Missouri so you pay shipping from Missouri.

MOTION: A motion was made by Treasurer Wensauer to accept the Spectrum Printers bid as presented. 2nd by Clerk Hinkley.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Clerk Hinkley – Yes
Treasurer Wensauer – Yes
Judge Jaconette – Yes

Motion passed 3 – 0

OPTION TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL BALLOTS: *Judge Jaconette* – We discussed earlier, and I don’t know why we wouldn’t automatically approve additional ballots if necessary. *Clerk Hinkley* – I couldn’t remember if it had been included in former meetings motions but wanted the commission to be aware that if there is a hotly contested race, that we have the option to purchase additional ballots. We want to be fiscally responsible, and not have at the next meeting questioning why the bill was different than originally presented. The schools do reimburse the county for the elections, but just so the commission is aware we have the option to purchase more. *Judge Jaconette* – I will just ask for a voice vote to approve the purchase of additional ballots if necessary. Approved by voice vote.

FUTURE ELECTIONS: *Clerk Hinkley* - We will have an August primary, the proposal deadline is May 10th, the filing deadline is April 19th (partisan races). Non-partisan races filing deadline is July 26th. *Judge Jaconette* – I am going to suggest our next commission meeting May 11th at 1:30. All 3 commissioners agreed to this date & will confirm so the Elections Office can send out meeting reminders as soon as possible.

BALLOT PROOFING: *Judge Jaconette* – The Elections office is trying to proof the ballots tomorrow (3/2/2022) if possible. *Clerk Hinkley* – We received all the necessary ballots from Election Source & approval from the various schools systems. So if we can pick a time we can do it tomorrow. *Judge Jaconette* – Chris will be here at 9:00am, Treasurer Wensauer - Lee will be here from my office.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

Citizens' Comments: Tim Allhouse (Spectrum Printers) "Thank You"

ELECTION COMMISSION STATEMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: 2:15pm

Respectfully Submitted – Elections Specialist Jill L. Stout