



# Danville Election Commission

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Betty Seidel  
Chairperson

V e r m i l i o n C o u n t y . I l l i n o i s

Charles Bostic  
Vice Chairperson

MINUTES  
March 12, 2007

Barbara Bailey  
Secretary

## CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Betty Seidel called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Barbara Dreher  
Executive Director

Present were Chairwoman Betty Seidel, Commissioner Charles Bostic. Commissioner Barbara Bailey was absent. Also present was Executive Director Barbara Dreher.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Bostic moved to approve agenda as presented. Ms. Seidel concurred.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Bostic moved to approve minutes of the January meeting as presented. Ms. Seidel concurred.

## ACCOUNTS PAYABLE.

Mr. Bostic moved to approve payables presented in the amount of \$8,386.57.

Ms. Seidel asked if any items within those presented were unusual. Ms. Dreher replied in the negative. Ms. Bostic stated that one was to Ms. Dreher herself to reimburse the use of her personal credit card for rental of the delivery truck for the primary. Ms. Dreher stated there was also an invoice for Dukes, Ryan for services through February 28 in amount of \$812.50. Ms. Seidel asked if there had been any activity on the disputed bill with ES&S. Ms. Dreher said that there had been no activity toward resolution of that item.

Ms. Seidel moved to approve payables presented. Ms. Bostic seconded.

## 1. LEGAL MATTERS

### NEWELL TOWNSHIP ROAD COMMISSIONERS' RACE

Ms. Dreher said that the commission had been released to store ballots outside of lock up and would be able to use the memory cards once again. She said that Mr. Andrews did not plan any further action on the matter and Attorney Dave Ryan had secured a release from the court on the election materials.

Ms. Seidel asked if Mr. Andrew's attorney had called. Ms. Dreher stated that Mr. Ryan had contacted Mr. Day because the commission was short a sufficient number of memory cards necessary for the April Election. There had been a small shortage of a few cards in the 2006 elections, but the director had been able to borrow the few necessary cards for those elections. Since it had been necessary to set aside the memory cards used in the primary, the shortage had become too great to continue to borrow. The increasing shortage was due to the new system being used for the in-house absentee/early vote tabulation.

Ms. Dreher said that she would need to buy some memory cards this year so that there would be two full sets and a shortage between the close elections would not occur. She said that it would cost \$4000 to buy a 2<sup>nd</sup> full set of cards and that she planned to do that from this year's budget since there had been at least that much saved on primary costs.

Ms. Seidel asked if there were other purchases that needed to be made to help with the new systems. Ms. Dreher said that she wasn't aware of anything at this time, but was in the process of analyzing the systems to see if other equipment would be needed.

A general discussion of election costs ensued.

She said that on the Cost of Election analysis the support figure was an estimate because the commission had yet to receive the invoice, but all the other amounts used were actual totals, leaving a cost per vote of just over \$67.00.

Ms. Dreher explained that there was a movement to do away with the municipal primary because of the expense and low turnout. A committee had contacted her last week for the total cost figure. Since all of her invoices weren't in at the time, she explained that it would only go up from the point she showed.

Ms. Seidel asked who was doing the study. Ms. Dreher said she was unsure of who was instigating the investigation, but that the Montgomery county clerk was collecting the figures for it.

## **2. DISPUTED BILL WITH ES&S**

Ms. Seidel asked if Ms. Dreher had spoken to Mr. Ryan about the disputed bill with ES&S. Ms. Dreher said that she had not, and now with the change in personnel at ES&S she thought it would be good to talk to Pat Whalen about getting it resolved. Ms. Seidel asked if ES&S had said anything about it. Ms. Dreher said other than showing up on the monthly statement she had not been contacted about it lately. She said that there was no pressure about paying it. She said that the \$1300 that had been removed from the AutoMark bill that had shown up monthly had finally been removed so she felt there had been some progress made.

## **3. PRIMARY WRAP UP**

Ms. Seidel asked if there were any items left from Primary. Ms. Dreher said that other than a couple of invoices, she was unaware of anything. She said that Mark Mossman at the State Board of Elections had referred her question concerning election judges to one of the attorneys in legal and she had been sent a reply from him. Mr. Bostic said that the legal decision was to continue to keep pressure on the county chairmen and keep good records of contact with them and what procedures had been followed and when and proceed as has she been because the judges have to be in place for the elections.

Ms. Dreher said that one of the points Ms. Bailey had made concerning the substitute judges was that they had been from outside the city and judges from other city precincts not involved in the primary could have been used. Ms. Dreher said that she was trying to keep judges in the same precincts and only "substitute" judges got moved around because many judges preferred to work only the precincts they work and if the judges got dissatisfied because they had been moved, they may quit. She said that they did have some of the judges from non-voting precincts as backups for the primary.

#### **4. ELECTION JUDGE SEARCH**

A draft copy of the letter prepared for the Party Chairmen was read. Ms. Seidel and Mr. Bostic both approved the letter to be sent out to both chairmen. Ms. Seidel asked if the Republican Chairman had ever responded to any call from the office. Ms. Dreher replied in the negative. Ms. Seidel asked that the letter be sent certified. Ms. Dreher agreed that she would do that. A copy of the state Board's opinion is attached to the minutes as requested by Ms. Seidel.

Ms. Seidel asked if there was anything else in the judge search. Ms. Dreher said that proposed legislation would allow the commission to use both juniors and seniors. She said that she had discussed the issue with County Clerk Lynn Foster who said that Danville High School had a very bad reliability in the matter. The students a lot of times didn't show up so she felt skeptical about using them. She said that Schlarman High was better because the students received a public service credit, but if she was drawing out of the available students, there wouldn't be much to use. Ms. Seidel said that DACC would probably be better, but Ms. Dreher said that the County Clerk had also had trouble with those students. Ms. Seidel said that we had to find a way to "grow our own" by getting younger people in somehow.

#### **5. BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Ms. Dreher said that it was getting to the time of year to start preparing the budget and she just wanted any input from the commissioners before beginning. A brief discussion of the new part time employee and possibility of increasing the budget by \$1000 in order to be able to use her when necessary without struggling with the budget. Ms. Seidel said to remind her that it was a part time position. Ms. Seidel said that the increase would be fine. She asked if Tia would be coming back at all. Ms. Dreher said that she was totally gone. She asked if Leora would be working anymore. Ms. Dreher said that Leora was coming back to work Election days. She said that Leora would work through the day as runner and then help the Democrat judge close out the absentee voting.

Ms. Dreher said that she didn't know what the commissioners wanted in regard to the reclassification that was in last year's budget but didn't pass and the money had been taken out of the budget, including the Executive Director's increase, which has not been given and the money taken out of the budget. A brief discussion about that ensued.

Ms. Dreher said that there may be change in the budget as it goes to the committees and the board would be that all the personnel lines would be joined together into one figure for passage. The reason behind that was that Mr. Dreher had been made Vice Chair in December, but there were some members unhappy that he wouldn't vote on the budget because Ms. Dreher's salary was stated as a line item of that budget. In order to get around that item, the Election Commission salary lines would be expressed as one item, and broken out for actual implementation. Ms. Seidel asked to have copies made of the material concerning the board's involvement in the process of setting the Election Commission budget.

#### **6. AECOI CONFERENCE MAY 9, 10 & 11**

Ms. Dreher said that she was working on that. The Association had raised the per-person fee to \$60, she said, and thought that the commissioners would be attending some on the sessions with it being in town. Cost for the commissioners, Executive Director, Ass't and part timer would be \$60 x6. She said Wednesday's night Executive Board dinner would be

at the Possum Trot and the Thursday dinner would be at Java Hut Vermilion Place and would be catered by Biaggi's. Lunch would be between sessions at the hotel. There would be a breakfast available Thursday and Friday morning.

Ms. Seidel asked what speakers were lined up. Ms. Dreher said that she had someone from State Board to talk about legislative changes. She said there had been suggestion made to have postal service talk about changes in postal regulations and how that would effect elections. She said that she had a call in to Steve Whitlow at Secretary of State Archive division to talk about record management requirements and what was necessary there. He had not returned her call and she would try again today, she said.

## **7. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

She told the commissioners that she would be taking a couple of vacation days on either side of the weekend of May 20 because she was serving as Head Woman Dancer at a powwow that weekend. She would also be taking a long weekend Labor Day weekend to attend the usual annual event. She said that most of the vacations she took would be stretch weekends because of going to powwows, except for taking the time off at Thanksgiving.

Ms. Seidel asked if there had been any changes in any of the other commissions. A brief discussion was held concerning the situation at the Peoria Commission.

There being no more points of discussion, meeting was adjourned at 9:56 a.m. to April 10, 2007.

Submitted by

Barbara Dreher  
Executive Director