

December 4, 2007

A meeting of the Board of Election Commissioners of St. Louis County was held at its office located at 12 Sunnen Drive, Maplewood, Missouri, Tuesday, December 4, 2007, at 4:00 p.m. on notice and call of the Chairman, John Diehl, Jr.

Present at the meeting were:

John J. Diehl, Jr.	Chairman
Chaim Zimbalist	Secretary
Anita Yeckel	Commissioner
Bill Miller	Commissioner
Joseph A. Goeke, III	Director
Joseph E. Donahue	Director

Mr. Diehl called the meeting to order and a roll call was taken. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order.

Mr. Diehl opened the Public Forum. The following persons signed cards to speak before the Board: Virginia Harris, Patricia Berg and David Arnold. As Mr. Diehl invited Virginia Harris to speak, he told Patricia Berg that he had received her email and is in process of going through it and would be responding, but not during today's meeting.

Virginia Harris spoke about putting items on the agenda. Mr. Diehl said the procedure for request of placing a matter on the Agenda was instituted as topics of discussion or questions were raised only a day or a few hours in advance.

He explained that items are not automatically placed on the Agenda when a request is made. The Board addresses timely matters germane to the election process and typically does not discuss situations in other jurisdictions. Mr. Diehl cited the example of a poll worker who voiced concerns about elections held at the Kirkwood Public Library. A thorough audit was conducted and a report filed and reported at a subsequent Board Meeting.

Patricia Berg voiced her disappointment in the process to have matters placed on the Board's Agenda. She said the Board members were appointed by the head of the political party in power, which made it a political system, and political systems are not black and white. Ms. Berg referred to recommendations by the EAC affecting the Election Board.

David Arnold introduced himself as an Assistant Supervisor from the last couple of elections, a database programmer, computer systems analyst and long-time member of ACM.org (Association for Computing Machinery). He spoke of his concerns that it is impossible to have a secret and verifiable ballot, with votes counted as cast, with electronic voting machines. He said only a true paper system could accomplish that. Mr. Arnold said he believes DREs are invitations to disaster.

As there were no more speakers, Mr. Diehl closed the Public Forum and proceeded to the next order of business.

Mr. Zimbalist made a motion to approve the minutes of the Board Meeting of October 30, 2007 and Ms. Yeckel seconded. There were no changes or corrections. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Diehl then called for the Directors Report.

Mr. Donahue gave the Board a copy of the civil service rule changes allowing County employees to work at the polls. He said the PTA/PTO project progress is encouraging and plans have been made for personal calls after January 1, on presidents of these organizations. The project has been expanded to include private schools. Mr. Donahue said the Ladue and Ferguson/Florissant School Districts have agreed to close schools on general election days. The Hazelwood School District was the first district to agree to close schools for general elections.

Mr. Diehl asked about the Parkway School District. Mr. Donahue reported that they have not indicated they will close schools yet, but they have indicated a willingness to provide poll workers. There is ongoing discussion in Mehlville School District and we expect great things from the Lindbergh School District.

Mr. Donahue said he would be meeting with the Consolidated School District in the near future.

Forrest Murphy will be testing areas of St. Louis County next week to see what areas need repeaters for use of two-way radios.

Plans are going forward on training videos. Dennis Riggs plans to sit in on a class on December 13 to get an idea of what is needed.

On the technical front, the firefighters have supplied 15 technicians so far. Sandy Diamond is working on the youth program with the Election Board providing help and encouragement.

Mr. Diehl moved that the Board enter into closed session pursuant to RSMo Section 610.021, to discuss legal actions, litigation, attorney/client privileged communications and to discuss personnel matters and further said that the meeting would be reopened to the public. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. A roll call was taken and the results are as follows: Mr. Miller, aye; Mr. Zimbalist, aye; Ms. Yeckel, aye; Mr. Diehl, aye. The motion was approved and the Board entered into closed session.

After the closed session adjourned, Mr. Diehl reopened the Board Meeting to the public.

Judge Goeke reported that training is going well and the poll workers have been quite receptive to the use of Palm Pilots. It has been stressed to them that these will need to be carefully monitored, and if any walk off, we would be looking to the poll workers for reimbursement.

Judge Goeke said there was a lot of good discussion on 2008 issues facing election officials at the meeting held in Columbia. In attendance were the election officials of Independence, Kansas City, St. Louis City, Cape Girardeau and St. Charles, among others. More such meetings are planned.

Discussion in the budget hearing was less on the budget and more on the equipment. Judge Goeke told them the purchased equipment had been certified by the Secretary of State's Office and was required by federal law and no County funds were used.

The County hired an outside firm to conduct an IT security audit. The formal report has not been received yet, but we were told our tabulation room is secure. The report will be given to the Board and is expected around December 19.

Judge Goeke related to the Board that the February election had been planned as primarily an optical scan election and April as primarily a DRE election because of the short turn-around time between these elections and few anticipated ballot styles for February. Due to reporting requirements by congressional district and township in February, the number of ballot styles would increase. Voter turnout cannot be accurately predicted because of the MetroLink proposition being on the ballot.

A great deal of discussion ensued on which of the two elections should be mostly optical scan.

There was no Old Business.

There was no New Business.

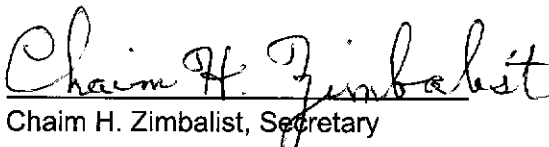
Ms. Yeckel made a motion to receive and file the Variance Report dated October 31, the Itemization of Bills from October 25 to November 27 and the Personnel Action Report for October. Mr. Zimbalist seconded. Mr. Diehl asked for any questions or comments. Mr. Zimbalist questioned the reduction in travel expenditures. Judge Goeke explained that because of the timing and location, the Directors and Deputy Directors did not attend IACREOT as originally budgeted. Mr. Diehl asked if the raises in the November Personnel Action Report were the yearly merit raises. Judge Goeke reported that these were for our specially trained technicians and reflected their additional responsibilities. A vote was then taken and the reports were received and filed.

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be January 15, 2008 at 3:00 pm.

Mr. Diehl moved that the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Miller seconded the motion. A roll call was taken and the meeting was adjourned



John J. Diehl, Jr., Chairman



Chaim H. Zimbalist, Secretary