

July 15, 2008

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, July 15, 2008, at 3:00 p.m. on notice and call of the Chairman, John Fox Arnold.

Present at the meeting were:

John Fox Arnold	Chairman
Chaim Zimbalist	Secretary
Anita Yeckel	Commissioner
Bill Miller	Commissioner
Steve Garrett	Attorney
Joseph A. Goeke, III	Director
Joseph E. Donahue	Director

Mr. Arnold called the meeting to order and opened the Public Forum. Virginia Harris (representing Missourians for Honest Elections) having signed a card to speak, was invited to the podium. Mr. Arnold advised the Board that Ms. Harris and he were acquainted through her membership in the MSD rate commission. Ms. Harris congratulated Mr. Arnold on his appointment as Chairman of the Election Board. She said she would have a lot of questions and that questions had been discouraged in the past as not part of a public comment forum.

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

Ms. Yeckel made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2008 Board Meeting and Mr. Miller seconded. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Arnold called for the Directors' report. Judge Goeke reported on the preparations for the August election, advising that we are ahead of schedule. There are 446 locations, 3700 pieces of equipment, enough paper ballots for 30% of voters and enough iVotronics for 40%. We are required to prepare for 66.7%.

Absentee voting has been slow, only 1786 with 5000 still out. The ballots have been packed and the binders are being bound. We need 8 poll workers per polling place and have more than 7 per polling place now. Registrations are current within a day or two on both REJIS and MCVR. All the statewide petitions are completed. We have one petition now that needs 43,000 signatures and our goal is to have it completed before the August election.

Deputy Directors Quicke and LaRosa are not confident enough of MCVR to run the election from it, so it is being run in REJIS. All the information for the election has been entered in both REJIS and MCVR.

We had previous authorization to pay the Lewis, Rice and Fingersh legal bill up to \$10,000. The bill came to \$11,708 and we need authorization to pay the balance.

The extended workweek for exempt employees has been implemented. Thus far 250 hours have been paid, amounting to approximately \$7,000.

We've received information from interested groups that we may have 100,000 new registrations for the November election. We have revised our estimates to 725,000 voters. Statutes require one piece of equipment for every 150 voters. We have one for every 109 voters.

Mr. Miller asked about changes in the number of polling places. Judge Goeke said that to reduce the chances of giving out wrong ballots there have been 8 polling place changes for the August election. Our goal is to have standard locations for our voters. We have 446 locations for the August election. With the equipment we now have we would be able to equip no more than 460 polling places.

Mr. Miller said since voters seldom read their notification postcards, voters should be notified some other way when their polling place has changed. Judge Goeke said we have put signs on old polling places advising voters of a change, including directions to the new polling place. Mr. Miller still has concerns and said voters should be notified, even if a change only affects 20 or 30 voters.

Mr. Zimbalist said we had discussed a way to indicate a change on the notification postcard. Judge Goeke said that we have limitations because of MCVR.

In the April Board Meeting Fredricka Lainoff spoke of the lack of handicap accessibility at her polling place, Hamilton Christian Church. For the November election her precinct (Creve Coeur 17) will be voting at St. Paul Evangelical Church which is close by.

Ms. Yeckel asked how confident we were in MCVR and if the Secretary of State's Office had done everything that we had asked of them. Judge Goeke replied that if we are not off REJIS by March 1, the whole \$1,400,000 bill will be ours to pay. We notified the Secretary of State of 60 issues that need to be resolved. Of those 20 have been done, 20 should be done this month and the other 20 should be done in September. We still have problems with 17,000 signature images. Overall they are doing a good job responding to our requests.

Mr. Zimbalist asked about the number of poll workers for the August and November elections. Judge Goeke said we have a goal of 8 for August and 8 to 14 for November. For those locations that have 14, we plan to have 4 assistant supervisors as these are the poll workers that are on their feet all day.

On the matter of the Lewis, Rice and Fingersh legal bill, Mr. Zimbalist moved that we authorize payment and Ms. Yeckel seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Mr. Donahue directed the Board Members to a resolution in their packets for Debbie Quicke's retirement. He then gave a progress report on poll worker recruitment. Fleishman and Hillard have launched their At Work For Democracy program, aimed at the Metro area's largest employers. A mailing of 4,000 postcards targeting north county Republicans went out and ads have been placed in newspapers and on the web.

Mr. Donahue said approval has been given for 23 more phone lines, which should help with election day calls. He reported that our training video has been completed and we should have copies soon.

Mr. Miller asked about a substitute poll worker who had not been paid. The directors indicated that the situation was resolved and payment was made.

There was no old business to bring before the Board. Mr. Arnold called for any new business.

Mr. Miller asked about a luncheon. Judge Goeke suggested the last week in August or the first of September, indicating that work load would prevent dates after September 15. Mr. Garrett reminded the Board about depositions scheduled for the last week in August.

Mr. Arnold asked if there were any questions about the financial reports. Ms. Yeckel asked if the legal bills were up because of more lawsuits. Judge Goeke said it consists of professional services and several pending lawsuits. Mr. Garrett replied that the last four or five months had seen more lawsuits than normal.

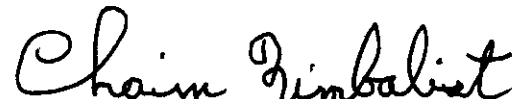
Mr. Miller made a motion to receive and file the Variance Report, Itemized Bills and Personnel Action Reports. Ms. Yeckel seconded the motion. By unanimous vote the motion passed to file the reports as received.

Mr. Arnold asked that his letter to Judge Goeke recusing himself on matters concerning MSD and Bi-State Development Agency be included as part of the minutes of this meeting.

Mr. Arnold asked for a motion to enter into closed session. Mr. Miller made a motion that the Board enter into closed session to discuss legal matters. Ms. Yeckel seconded the motion. The motion was approved and the Board entered into closed session.



John Fox Arnold, Chairman



Chaim Zimbalist, Secretary