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 15, 2015.

Present at the meeting were:

Richard H. Kellett John Maupin John King

Trudi McCollum Foushee

Darold Crotzer Eric Fey Gary B. Fuhr Mary Wall

**Christian Tolbert** 

Julie Leicht

Chairman Secretary

Commissioner Commissioner

Attorney Director Director

Deputy Director Deputy Director

**Assistant Deputy Director** 

Chairman Kellett called the meeting to order and a roll call was taken. A quorum was present.

There being no one to speak at the Public Forum, Chairman Kellett made a motion to close that segment of the meeting and Commissioner King seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the Public Forum was closed.

Chairman Kellett asked if everyone had read the minutes from the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Commissioner King made a motion that the minutes be accepted and Secretary Maupin seconded. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

Chairman Kellett called for Director Fuhr's report. Director Fuhr informed the board of a number of bills pre-filed in the state legislature. Of particular interest to the Election Board are SB 771 and HB 1778 which require the use of paper ballots for public elections. These bills would discontinue the use of our current touch screen voting machines which would, in turn, significantly increase the number of paper ballots required for each election. Director Fuhr also informed the board about SB 757 which would institute automatic voter registration, paper ballot only elections, early voting, same day voter registration, and all mail elections. Director Fuhr has also been in contact with Representative Cloria Brown in an effort to have legislation introduced that would expand the number of days allowed for the opening of absentee ballots.

Director Fuhr also updated the Board on a meeting being hosted by St. Louis County to discuss election related legislation in the upcoming legislative session. All regional election authorities, in addition to regional members of the House and Senate elections committees, will be in attendance.

Director Fuhr further updated the Board on the status of the St. Louis County audit. Director Fuhr shared a portion of the draft audit report with the Board detailing the various recommendations from the County Auditor. Of particular note the County Auditor is recommending that the Board competitively procure legal services in the future and approve monthly legal expenditures. Overall the audit report indicates that sufficient controls are in place and functioning as intended.

Director Fey directed the Board's attention to Assistant Deputy Director Julie Leicht who updated the Board on the status of the tax bill poll worker recruitment flyer. The tax bill recruitment flyer was included with over 450,000 personal property tax bills and has elicited over 3,600 responses. Director Fey also updated the Board as to the outcome of the poll worker recruitment poster contest.

Director Fey reviewed with the Board the informational packet submitted to the County Council at the Council's annual budget hearing. Director Fey led the Board through the 2016 adopted budget and several budget highlights from the 2015 budget year. Chairman Kellett made a motion to accept directors' reports, and Secretary Maupin seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was approved.

Under Old Business, Director Fey told the Board there is no Old Business to discuss. Chairman Kellett made a motion to close Old Business, and Commissioner King seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was approved.

Under New Business, Director Fey told the Board there is no New Business to discuss. Chairman Kellett made a motion to close New Business, and Commissioner Foushee seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was approved.

Director Fuhr directed the Board to the reports in their packet for the financial portion of the meeting. We are on track with the budget expenditures. Chairman Kellett made a motion to close Old Business, and Commissioner King seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was approved.

Under Legal, Attorney Crotzer updated the board in regard to ongoing litigation concerning the Ferguson-Florissant School District, the City of Kinloch, and the Ferguson mayoral recall petition. Attorney Crotzer further informed the Board that he will assist with the development of a process to secure future legal services contracts, the Board agreed to extend the legal contract with attorney for six month and will be extended if needed. Chairman Kellett made a motion to authorize the agreement and Commissioner King seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was approved and the legal portion of the meeting was closed.

In the Personnel portion of the meeting Director Fey informed the Board of one new election clerk, Maureen Callahan in Teams. Chairman Kellett made a motion to close the personnel portion of the meeting and Commissioner King seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the personnel portion of the meeting was closed.

Chairman Kellett moved that the Board adjourn and Commissioner Foushee seconded the motion. A roll call was taken and the votes were as follows: Chairman Kellett, aye; Secretary Maupin, aye; Commissioner Foushee, aye; and Commissioner King, aye. The meeting was then adjourned.

Richard H. Kellett, Chairman

John/Maupin, Secretary