

May 22, 2018

The Tazewell County Electoral Board met in the General Registrar's office Tuesday, May 22, 2018. The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Tom Brewster at 11am. Present was Director of Elections, Brian Earls, Deputy Registrar, Alicia Kitts and Secretary, Sherman Cain. Vice Chair, Beth Grindstaff was unable to attend due to a prior commitment. Special guests attending were Maggie Asbury, Northern District Tazewell County Board of Supervisors and Chase Collins, Assistant County Attorney.

The motion to approve the minutes from the April 23, 2018 meeting was offered by Tom Brewster, seconded by Sherman Cain; the motion carried.

Discussions ensued regarding several precinct locations in the northern district. Smaller numbers of eligible voters in the precincts indicate voters would be better served with a consolidation. Other benefits to be derived would be a significant reduction on costs per election, more convenient public access, improved parking and safety for the public and election official staff. In some locations environmental quality and/or structural issues with the precincts themselves necessitated the board to consider improvements at this time.

The Electoral Board received input from Northern District Supervisor Asbury with guidance to the electoral board from Assistant County Attorney Chase Collins as the discussions moved forward. Upon conclusion of discussions each consolidation/merger was considered separately.

The Abbs Valley Elementary School, located between the Boissevain precinct and the Abbs Valley precinct was inspected as a possible site for a consolidation by board members Tom Brewster and Sherman Cain on May 11, 2018. With both attending board members agreeing AVES was a great alternative, Chairman Tom Brewster made a motion to combine the Abbs Valley precinct and the Boissevain precinct and moving to the Abbs Valley Elementary School. The motion, seconded by Sherman Cain, carried.

The Adria precinct and Gap Store precinct was discussed at length. Again, the board is of the opinion both current locations lack features that provide environmental comfort, convenience and safety for voters or the election staff. The Electoral Board discussed recommendations from a precinct assessment done in 2011 following the last census. At that time the recommendation was to consolidate both to a suitable empty office building at end of Baptist Valley Road but the Board of Supervisors did not take the recommendation at that time.

At the conclusion of the Adria/Gap Store discussion Chairman Tom Brewster made the motion to merge the two precincts into one and moving to the building next to S&K Welding. The motion, seconded by Sherman Cain, carried.

A fifth lone precinct, Amonate, was also on the agenda for merger consideration. After careful deliberations the board members agreed to take no action at this time.

Discussions next involved merging the western district Wardell and Pounding Mill precincts. Officials with the Community Heights Church elected to halt voting at the fellowship hall after June 12, 2018 which forces a relocation of that precinct. The Pounding Mill precinct has issues with the building itself and environmental concerns.

On May 3rd the Claypool Hill VFW was inspected as a possible precinct site by Electoral Board members Tom Brewster and Sherman Cain along with Director of Elections, Brian Earls. The consensus was the VFW is adequate in size and could adequately serve to combine the two precincts. Following discussions Tom Brewster made the motion to merge the two precincts Wardell/Pounding Mill into one, relocating to the VFW. The motion, seconded by Sherman Cain, carried.

The Electoral Board next considered a request from the Town of Pocahontas to temporarily move their precinct from the old jail building to the new town hall. The board is aware of physical, environmental and structural issues with the old building and concur with the town officials on the relocation.

The board heard from Director Earls informing the board notice to Pocahontas voters on a temporary move for the June primary and again later for a permanent location would involve expenses twice. Director Earls suggested, with the board members agreeing, making the town hall the permanent precinct would be a better idea. Maggie Asbury agreed to contact the mayor regarding the suggestion.

County Attorney Collins agreed to proceed with preliminary work on all of the precinct changes.

Other matters, the board heard from Director Earls on 2018/2019 planning. Sherman Cain advised the board and staff he had been informed by Mike Kidd he was selling his equipment and would not be assisting us with machine delivery after the primary cycle. The ideal type of equipment is the car hauler trailers which have already proved to be very efficient and another source would have to be found for them prior to November or the county would need to purchase. The issue of liability exposure using a 3rd party for delivery was discussed with the county attorney.

The annual training and travel to Richmond was discussed. Tom Brewster indicated he possibly would not be attending.

Director Earls and the board discussed the use of temporary help for the upcoming elections and informed the board he has pared the schedule down to minimum.

The board reviewed and briefly discussed two election official applications recently received whereby Sherman Cain made the motion to approve Courtney Anders and Patty Ramage; the motion seconded by Tom Brewster carried.

Primary election day precinct visits were discussed with a division between Tom Brewster and Sherman Cain only at this time.

Machine delivery for the upcoming election was addressed by Sherman Cain. Mike Kidd has agreed to the same schedule as before with a Friday afternoon loading and Monday 7am delivery commencement.

There being no further items to discuss, Sherman Cain made the motion to adjourn; Tom Brewster seconded, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm

Respectfully submitted:

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Secretary