CITY OF BURTON
ELECTION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 27, 2000, 4:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS

THE SPECIAL MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN, GAYLE WEBSTER AT 4:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: R. Bement, J. Brown and G. Webster.

MEMBERS ABSENT: L. Bertram and D. Davis.

OTHERS PRESENT: None.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING:

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and possibly recommend an increase in election inspector's salary.

PRESENTATION:

Mrs. Webster provided background information on election workers and competitive wages being paid in Genesee County. Some of her comments focused on the growing shortage of election workers in Burton, due to the older population of the present election worker force, a lower unemployment rate, the lack of interest of younger adults working as election inspectors and the low wages being offered. Given the opportunity to work elsewhere, the workers are looking at salaries offered in other municipalities. The clerk's office has received several calls from workers in reference to the low wages. Other communities have indicated that Burton workers are signing up to work their elections due to the higher wages being offered. Burton has the lowest paid workers currently out of the eleven communities listed in Genesee County. Burton's starting salary is $80.00 a day, while neighboring Grand Blanc Township starts at $130.00 a day. The average salary for the ten communities listed was from $115.00 to $143.00. Mrs. Webster suggested a fair wage of $110.00 to $140.00 for the election workers. This would increase the salary $30.00 a day across the board. In addition, she suggested workers be paid $5.00 more for election classes. This would increase each class payment to $10.00. The election commission is a recommending body on these types of issues. If a recommendation were made today, it would go before council on October 2, 2000.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

None.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

Mr. Bement asked if the $30.00 a day increase would be enough to keep Burton competitive with other communities.

Mrs. Webster said this would put Burton within the average of the communities listed in Genesee County. She felt this was a fair starting point on the issue. She indicated the board was able to look at any reasonable amount at this point.

A brief discussion was held on what salary changes should be offered.

Mrs. Webster reviewed the general fund transfer that would be needed to cover the proposed increase. She indicated that a $30.00 a day increase plus $10.00 a class would require a $3,900.00 fund transfer. This would increase the total election budget for workers to approximately $24,000 a year.

Mrs. Brown said neighboring Grand Blanc Township is even paying their workers $130.00 a day.

Mrs. Webster said after discussing this issue with the Mayor and the controller, she felt a neutral fair wage would be within the average range of the other communities. This issue could be reviewed and adjusted in the next budget year. Hopefully, this increase would help remedy an election worker shortage.

Mrs. Brown agreed that the $30.00 a day increase was a good start towards remedying the salary discrepancy. She suggested increasing the salaries $5.00 to $10.00 more in the next budget year.

Discussion continued on this topic.

Mr. Bement asked for clarification on the controller's view on this issue.

Mrs. Webster had discussed this issue with the controller and this seemed to be a fair neutral increase.

Mr. Bement said we should keep the election worker's salaries competitive with surrounding communities, if it is difficult to get workers. We need to stay informed on this issue.

COMMISSION ACTION:

Bement moved and Brown seconded the following motion:

1. Approve and authorize the increase of the election inspector's salaries by $30.00 per day and by $5.00 per meeting.

Motion carried 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:10 P.M.

Gayle Webster
City Clerk

GW/cml