

GOVERNMENTAL CLERKS OF GENESEE COUNTY
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 18, 2004, 11:00 A.M.
Weekdays Restaurant-Genesee Area Skill Center

The meeting was called to order by President Darene Woodbury at 11:20 P.M.

PRESENT:

Cheryl Ladd, Jane Lefler, Barbara Peel, Ida M. Reed, Carol Arvoy, Jackie Hamilton, Darene Woodbury, Beth Holm, Cindy Peyton, Juanita Aguir, Deanna Korth, Mary Jo Clark, Sheri Warner, Lisa Holmes, Norma Vohwinkle, Bob Krug, Tom Broecker, Marti Donnelly, Sue Young, Jennifer Wills, Mike Dowler, Diane Dowler, Brian Blossom, Chuck Marshall, Debbie Muron, Julia Morford, Pat Drozdowski, Carol Thompson, Beverley Williams, Terry Edetto, Sally A Lurvey, Debbie Cross, Teri Onica, Lucille Little, Andrea Barden, Debbie Banyos, Lorraine Bess, Jennifer Foether, Christina M. Rush, Rob Coffman and Gayle Webster.

MINUTES:

Moved by Warner, seconded by Clark to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2003 meeting as written. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Moved by Ladd, seconded by Hamilton to approve the treasurer's report dated March 15, 2004. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Ms. Woodbury gave a report on the Grand Blanc School millage election. The 2.94 mil bond issue passed by a narrow margin. There were 1,079 AV's processed with a voter turnout of over 10,000. There were no problems with the new optical scan equipment. To move voters along more efficiently, she suggested breaking down the poll list at the information area during larger elections. For example, have voters line up A-L and M-Z. Other suggestions included writing the ballot numbers on the application, issuing the ballot, turning the application over and moving on to the next voter. Workers could record the applications in the poll book as time permits. There is no need to make the voter wait until the name is written in the poll book. This should help process voters faster. In addition, workers should tear ballot stubs off carefully so there will be a cleaner edge to feed into the scanners. A frayed edge may cause the scanner to jam. She was pleased that the Grand Blanc School Election went so well.

Secretary of State, Terri Lynn Land plans to attend our September meeting. She will give a brief presentation followed by a question and answer period.

Copies of the street directory were made available. If you need more copies, contact Darene Woodbury.

ELECTION REPORT:

Mr. Coffman commented on the Grand Blanc School Election. He said the slow down at the polls appears to be at the Qualified Voter List check-in area. He suggested breaking the voter list down into several designated check-in lanes. After the voter has been given an application, a ballot should be issued and the voter should be allowed to vote. Names can be written in the poll book when time permits. One person should be issuing ballots and one person writing in the poll book. He thought the Grand School Millage Election went well. He was pleased to announce that all 10,000 plus ballots were processed by 8:45 p.m.

Mr. Coffman gave a report on the Election Consolidation Act. Starting in January 2005 there will be four election dates scheduled. These elections will be scheduled in February, May, August and November. In addition, it is possible to have one floater election. In this circumstance, a petition with signatures totaling 10% of those that voted in the last Governor's Election would need to be submitted. One exception to the rule is a state wide called election for a constitutional change or if we need to replace one of our congressional leaders. The villages fall into the township cycle of the even November year. This cycle can be changed by board action. The law states that the school district elections are to be held in the odd year November election. However, under a school board resolution they can select a May odd year, or May even/odd year election date. He said the schools would be selecting an annual May election date. The Clerks could suggest another date to the school districts. Ideally, everyone would have an even year August primary or November general election. These dates would coincide with the major elections, therefore, eliminating so many smaller elections.

If an entire school district is within the boundaries of your municipality, the local clerk is responsible for holding the school elections. When the school district crosses municipal lines the County Clerk is responsible for conducting the school election. The County Clerk can require the local clerk to administer the absentee voting. In addition, the County Clerk can ask the local clerks to administer the remaining portions of the election or we can do it ourselves. The County will be asking the Clerks to accept this responsibility. He pointed out that the precinct boundaries and school boundaries do not always correspond. This presents a problem when dealing with school elections. There are 21 school districts in Genesee County. The school superintendents would like us to keep the school precincts like they are. Most of them have single school precincts. He suggested two options. One would be to operate the election with a single school precinct. The County's preference, with the Clerks' consent, would be Option two to follow the current precinct structure. It would be ideal for voters to go to the same polling location for all elections. The new equipment and Qualified Voter File would handle split precincts and various races. The school districts do not like this idea because it would cost them more money for their election. The Clerks need to decide what type of precinct structure will be utilized. Mr. Coffman plans to send out a survey regarding this issue. A large majority of the group favored using the current precinct structure for all elections.

A suggestion was made to hold the school elections on the current established election dates of August and November. This would prove to be more cost effective for everyone involved. If the schools decide on a May election, they will have to pay all related costs. It seems logical to hold the elections together. Mr. Coffman thought the public and the press would support us on consolidating the elections. School officials will no longer be responsible for any aspects of the election process. Each school district has the option to pick the May, August or November date. Discussion was held regarding the pros and cons of holding school elections on the proposed dates.

Mr. Coffman gave a brief update on the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) reimbursements. To his knowledge, the Federal Government will pay \$3,200 toward the purchase of a precinct tabulator. Our equipment cost \$4,500 per precinct. The State indicated that they would pay the difference between what the Federal government paid and what was still owed, as determined by the statewide structure. ES&S has agreed not to charge us more than the statewide price structure. Supposedly, the cost of the equipment would be covered. However, this has not happened. He cautioned everyone not to spend the money they have allocated for this equipment. The County anticipates billing communities in July. Municipalities who purchased tabulators to accommodate counting boards are responsible for the full cost of the equipment.

A May date is being set for election training that the State does on a two-year cycle. The morning session will be for the more experienced election official. The afternoon session is designed for newer clerks or for someone that would like a refresher class. In addition, he is planning small hands-on operational M100 classes for election officials. Precinct inspector training would be held at a later date.

A representative will be contacting the local clerks to schedule a date for an acceptance test on their voting equipment. The visit will include a general maintenance check and changing the setting from arrows to ovals.

The municipalities can dispose of punch card equipment. Old devices can be restructured to accommodate optical scan ballots. Keep ballot cans and transfer cases for ballot storage.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Gayle K. Webster, CMC
Secretary

