

Minutes
Governmental Clerks of Genesee County
Thursday, September 16, 2004
Weekdays Restaurant

The meeting was called to order by President Darene Woodbury at 11:10 a.m.

PRESENT:

Cheryl Ladd, Ida M. Reed, Carol Arvoy, Darene Woodbury, Mary Jo Clark, Tom Broecker, Marti Donnelly, Sue Young, Jennifer Wills, Mindy Carrier, Pat Drozdowski, Lucille Little, Andrea Barden, Lorraine Bess, Janie Bradley, Rob Coffman, Lisa Baryo, Deanna Korth, Michelle King, Janet Towns, Carole Liddell, Myra Hobson, Carol Thompson, Julia Morford, Megan Fischer, Debbie Banyas, Terry Edgette, Sally Lurvey, Gail Tanner, Karen Miller, Norma Vohwinkle, Lisa Holmes, Margaret Herriman, Jennifer Foether, Christina Rush, Tere Onica, Chuck Marshall, Bob Krug and Gayle Webster.

Special Guests: Terri Lynn Land, Secretary of State; Chris Thomas, State Elections Director
Christy Dougen, Assistant for Secretary of State

MINUTES:

Moved by Ladd, seconded by Marshall to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2004 meeting as written and the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Carol Arvoy indicated that nominating forms were being sent out for the selection of the Manwaring Award participant. All forms are to be submitted no later than November 1, 2004.

Mrs. Arvoy asked that all meeting reservations be submitted as soon as possible so the right amount of food can be ordered. Carol will accept payment at the meeting if you are unable to send it with the reservations.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Darene Woodbury selected Jackie Hamilton, Rob Coffman and Sally Lurvey to set on the nominating committee. The winner of the Manwaring Award will be announced at the December meeting. There was agreement to use the same facilities next year. Darene will submit the meeting dates for the upcoming year. Our next meeting will be at Christmas time.

Bill Wallworth is having a reception in his honor on September 29, 2004.

Gayle Webster announced that Cheryl Ladd would be retiring from the City of Burton after 35 years of service. A retirement party is being held in her honor on September 27, 2004 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Burton Senior Center. Everyone was welcome to attend.

ELECTION REPORT:

Rob Coffman said the Clerks would be contacted when the ballots were ready to be picked up at Printcomm. A new pen will be mailed with the absentee ballot. The ink pens, PC cards and the blue bags were available after the meeting. The Logic and Accuracy Test will be held September 30, 2004. The County will generate the test ballots and publish a notice for the Logic and Accuracy Test and the Close of Registration. The rest of the supplies are being shipped directly from ES&S and Michigan Election Resources and should be in next week.

Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land spoke on the following topics:

Motor Vehicle Super Centers

Branch offices are being consolidated and Flint will get one of the five Super Centers. She hoped this would provide better customer service. Services included, instant titles, driving records, extended hours, the use of credit cards and specialist at the branch offices. In addition, 22 plus offices will be created across Michigan. They will not be opened on Saturday.

Notary Services

The process to acquire a notary license has been streamlined. Notaries can't provide services to family members. For more information go to the website at michigan.gov/sos.

General Information

License plates can be renewed on line.

She encouraged everyone to register to be an organ donor.

She was successful at eliminating the presidential preference primary this year and will continue to work with both parties to eliminate the preference primary in the future.

Consolidated Elections

She felt local clerks were the best qualified to oversee the elections. There are four elections dates a year. Her goal was to help save local governments time, resources and money. In addition, she felt this would be beneficial for the voters. They are going to have one place to get an absentee ballot. Hopefully, the voter will have one polling place.

The Federal government appropriated \$3.5 billion to the State to put a new election system in place. Michigan is getting 100 million dollars. We received \$15 million early money and \$28 million just a few weeks ago. To qualify for the HAVA dollars we must meet the following requirements:

1. Electronic System. The system we picked was the optical scan. Everyone has that system in Genesee County.
2. Precinct Base System. Which gives voters the opportunity to recapture their ballot if they make a mistake.
3. Disability Component. We have not achieved this goal. There are only three vendors in the United States that are working on this type of election systems. We have to be in compliance with this by 2006. The latest device basically marks the ballot. It has a screen, which can be adjusted to read larger or smaller print. A keyboard, which has Braille and a hearing device. It also accommodates someone that is completely paralyzed. Each one of these units cost approximately \$7,000 to \$8000 a unit. The State will be buying these. Each polling site will need one of these.
4. Statewide Voter File. We are required to have a statewide registered voter file, which we have with the Qualified Voter File.

Future Goals

The state plans to spend \$10 million for upgrades to the QVF system. There are plans to revise the street index software, so the Clerks can make their own adjustments to the GIS system.

She would like to eliminate the registration cards. We have asked the legislator to allow us to dump from the motor vehicle file to voter file with a signature. As far as she is concerned once your voter in Michigan you're always a voter. If a voter transfers, the signature will go with them. You will still get cards for new voters and people from out of state. Eventually, all states will be required to have a statewide voter file. Then even out of state files will be able to be transferred electronically.

There is money available for Clerk's training and voter training. There is a small portion of funds for voter outreach nonprofits group. The majority of funds will be going to be spent on the disability component. This cost will be approximately \$20 million. We hope all this will be completed by 2006.

Chris Thomas, State Director of Elections spoke on the following topics:

General Information

The Disability System is being distributed by ES&S. We will continue to see great improvements in the area of elections. He hoped to see the integration of the optical scan system with the reporting of returns. By the 2006 election, the entire state of Michigan should be using the optical scan system. Election officials will be working to find the best disability system available. He said to make sure polling sites are accessible. He suggested that election officials attend a class on Provisional Ballots. Disability issues would be discussed at upcoming training sessions.

QVF Software

QVF software contains the new Precinct Locator. You will be able to download your entire community onto a laptop. The program will allow you select the precinct you want, check your voters in and record voter history. Then you will upload the voter history to QVF after the polls close. You will be able to direct your voters to the right precinct.

Election Consolidation

From September to December villages, schools and City need to determine when their elections will be held. They are required to hold a public hearing. Information on this issue will soon be sent to the Clerk's. It would be nice if everyone moved to the general odd year election. This would save some election cost to the schools and reduce the number of elections. Schools could even hold their elections every other year to save costs. Beginning in January the coordinating committee from each school district will be meeting. If the school district crosses a city or township line the county clerk will be the coordinator. If it's fully contained within a city or township the local clerk will be the coordinator. The coordinating committee will be made up of all the Clerks with in that school district and secretary of the school district. The committee will decide the details of the school election. There are options on how you can conduct the school elections. Training will be provided on this issue.

A brief question and answer session was held.

Communities that have less than 5,000 voters are going to be given access to QVF. Access can be gained through a web base system. You do not have to purchase an additional computer for this.

The Precinct Locator is part of the most recent software version. More information will be provided regarding the precinct locator.

The Secretary asked Clerks to direct people to the voter information center at michigan.gov/vote.

Mr. Coffman wanted to know when the County would be reimbursed for the purchase of the M-100 Optical Scan tabulators. The County paid \$1.4 million for the equipment.

Mr. Thomas said the repayment process should begin right after the election.

If certain groups don't pass a resolution some time between September and December 2004 their election day will default to the odd year election date automatically. The school has the option to choose the May election date. If they want to change again, they have no choice but to go to an odd year November election. Villages have the choice to opt for the September odd year election. If they don't do anything, they are on even year November election. The City elections that fall on the odd year November election do not have any other option. There is a possibility that we could have a February election in some areas. In addition, there's a possibility of some floater election dates.

Ralph Nadar will be on the ballot as an Independent Party candidate. There will be a candidate for the Reform Party in Michigan.

Election training dates are being scheduled. More information will be provided at a later date.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Gayle K. Webster, CMC
Secretary