

**INGHAM COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
DRAFT MINUTES
September 13, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Ingham County Election Commission was called to order at 4:04 p.m. by Judge Garcia. The meeting was held in the Board of Commissioners Room at the Grady Porter Building in Lansing, MI.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barb Byrum, Ingham County Clerk
Richard Garcia, Chief Probate Judge
Eric Schertzing, Ingham County Treasurer

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Lindsey LaForte, Recording Secretary

Remarks from Clerk Byrum

Clerk Byrum stated that ballots proofs were available. She further stated that there was an error in the Farmland Millage question but that was the way that the question was passed by the Board of Commissioners and not the fault of her Office.

Clerk Byrum stated that there were 165 ballot types for the 121 precincts that Ingham County programs for, which included two Eaton County precincts in the City of Lansing and one Clinton County precinct in the City of East Lansing. She further stated that Friday, September 14, 2018 was the filing deadline for the Williamston School Board Recall Election at 4:00 p.m.

Clerk Byrum stated that the ballots would be 20 inches long except for one type which was 21 inches long. She further stated that her Office was still trying to reformat that ballot to fit on 20 paper.

Clerk Byrum asked that when the proof ballots were approved that that changes be allowed if additional Williamston School Board Recall candidates filed, they may be added, as well as changes that may be needed to have all ballots 20 inches, and any changes that the State of Michigan may require.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Treasure Schertzing, supported by Clerk Byrum, to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2018 Election Commission Meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Approval of invoices for August 7, 2018 Elections - \$44,750.81

Clerk Byrum stated that all of the election programing had been completed by her Office. She futher stated that the invoices were for precinct kits and ballot printing.

Moved by Judge Garcia, supported by Treasurer Schertzing, to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$44,750.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Approval of proof ballots for use in the November 2018 Election

Moved by Treasurer Schertzing, supported by Judge Garcia, to approve the proof ballots and allow Clerk Byrum to make any needed edits.

Treasurer Schertzing asked when the ballots would go to print after Williamston School Board Recall candidates were finalized.

Clerk Byrum stated that the ballots would go to print after 4:00 p.m. on Friday. She further stated that was why she wanted to be able to make any needed edits to the ballots for additional Williamston School Board Recall candidates filed, changes that may be needed to have all ballots 20 inches, and any changes that the State of Michigan may require.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Public Comment

Judge Garcia stated that he had seen public comments from the Meridian Township Clerk laying blame for Election Night delays in August at the feet of the election machinery. He further stated that he expected that there would be a similar delay for the November General Election.

Judge Garcia asked if there had been anything done to discuss the problems that they experienced with the machinery.

Clerk Byrum stated that she maintained that it was not machines that caused Meridian Township to be the last ones to transmit results. She further stated that it was an excuse for all of the times that they had been late coming in with results.

Clerk Byrum stated that Meridian Township needed to remember that they shall not score or fold a ballot along areas where people vote because that mark may cause tabulators to produce a stray mark error. She further stated that her Office, including herself, Election Clerk Coordinator Liz Noel, and Recording Secretary Lindsey LaForte, have all attempted to help Meridian Township and the Clerk to help understand elections better.

Clerk Byrum stated that she looked forward to continuing to help.

Treasurer Schertzing stated that Meridian Township had problems with new machines and problems with the old machines, so it made sense that it was logical that it was a problem with the operator. He asked if there were any tools to address this situation.

Clerk Byrum stated that the ballots were long, as they were in the August Primary Election, which will take a little bit longer. She further stated that as far as the transmission issues, her Office had worked with the Meridian Township Clerk on numerous occasions and attempted to

help him increase communication between him and her Office and also between the Clerk and the election workers in the polling locations.

Clerk Byrum stated that often after polls closed when her Office was trying to get a feeling for how things were going, the Meridian Township Clerk did not even know that there had been problems with a precinct yet. She further stated that when later attempts were made to contact the Meridian Township Clerk to find out status of precincts, that he did not know and needed to reach out of the precinct chair to find out what was happening.

Clerk Byrum stated that arguably the Meridian Township Clerk was not in sufficient communication with their precinct chairs and not in touch with what was happening on Election Day at their polling locations. She further stated that she looked forward to helping Meridian Township with transmission.

Judge Garcia asked if there was anything else for public comment.

Treasurer Schertzing stated that years back the Clerk's Office would place an employee in the City of Lansing to help on Election Day. He asked if that was an option with Meridian Township.

Clerk Byrum stated that had happened in the past for townships that had needed help due to a Clerk's illness or death. She further stated that she did not have the power to take over another Clerk's office.

Clerk Byrum stated that she did not expect staff would be utilized if they were sent to help. She further stated that she did intend to have staff available to help and was open to the Election Commission sending another letter.

Judge Garcia stated that they would see how it went with the next election. He further stated that if it went as bad as he expected, then he might go and make public comment to the Meridian Township Board of Trustees. He further stated that by going to that meeting and explaining to the Board of Trustees would help.

Treasurer Schertzing stated that he would be willing to go to the Board of Trustees meeting also.

Judge Garcia stated it would be an effective way of informing the people of what was happening in their Clerk's Office. He further stated that they needed to know that this was not a problem with the machinery as everyone else had the same machinery and everyone else was hours ahead with more volume.

Adjournment

Judge Garcia stated that without objection, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:13 p.m.