

Approved
February 24, 2017

**INGHAM COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
MINUTES
DECEMBER 22, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Ingham County Election Commission was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Judge Garcia. The meeting was held in 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: Justin Alexander, Election/Clerk Coordinator
Maggie Fenger, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes:

Moved by Clerk Byrum, supported by Treasurer Schertzing, to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2016 Election Commission Meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Approval of Invoices:

Clerk Byrum added 1 final invoice from Election Source to the remaining invoices from the November 8, 2016 General Election, bringing the grand total of the invoices to be approved to \$17,919.48.

Moved by Judge Garcia, supported by Treasurer Schertzing, to approve payment of the remaining invoices for the November 8, 2016 General Election.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Public Comment:

Treasurer Schertzing stated that he was not sure if Judge Garcia's previous comments to Meridian Township improved their performance. He asked Clerk Byrum if the recount had helped identify any issues.

Clerk Byrum stated that Meridian has more opportunity for improvement. 6 Meridian township precincts were deemed unrecountable due to incorrect seals used on the ballot bags. The seals used are identical to the correct seals in shape; however they are a different color to indicate that they are not approved for use for State or Federal Elections.

Treasurer Schertzing commented that the previous Judge Boyd recount in 2006 had found the same issues with Meridian Township using incorrect seals.

Clerk Byrum stated that City of Lansing had several unrecountable precincts as well. The city used a moving company to move the ballots and the company's workers did not follow the Clerk's advice on properly moving ballot bags. The workers lifted the bags by the handles, which caused the bags to split along the seams and left holes large enough for ballots to be added or removed. Any hole in the ballot bag large enough for ballots to be added or removed makes a precinct unrecountable.

Judge Garcia asked Clerk Byrum if these invoices included the cost of the recount.

Clerk Byrum stated that the invoices do not include the cost of the recount, just of the General Election. The \$45 bag listed on the late addition to the invoice is currently being used for the recount to hold challenged ballots, however that was not its original purpose and it will be used for other things once the ballots are removed based on the retention schedule.

Judge Garcia stated that the recount had established that a recount can be completed in 1 day, based on Ingham County's performance.

Clerk Byrum stated that the recount took Ingham County 2 days to complete.

Judge Garcia questioned the timeline of the recount and whether or not Clerk Byrum had a deadline to meet when completing the recount.

Clerk Byrum stated that a Federal Judge ordered the State of Michigan recount to begin Monday at 12:00pm, and the State Bureau of Elections worked with Oakland County and Ingham County to begin the recount process as part of the Bureau's staggered start plan for the entire state. Clerk Byrum further stated that by the time the stop order had come in, Ingham County had completed the recount.

Judge Garcia and Treasurer Schertzing questioned whether the State of Michigan is paying for the recount.

Clerk Byrum explained the reimbursement process the State of Michigan will use to pay Ingham County for the recount, and added that the \$125 per precinct fee will only be paid for precincts that were recounted. The county will not receive any reimbursement for precincts that were unrecountable.

Treasurer Schertzing stated that other counties can learn from Ingham County's planning and execution of the recount.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:07p.m.



Barb Byrum, Ingham County Clerk