

Monroe County Board of Elections

MINUTES

February 12, 2024

Attendance: Board Members: Sam Bennett, Mary Chambliss, Rosalyn Harbuck, and Jimmy Zellner. Linda Davis was excused due to illness.

Staff: Kaye Warren

Meeting was called to order and opened with prayer.

The minutes of the November and December 2023 and the January 2024 minutes were reviewed and approved as printed.

The Expenditure Analysis was presented.

Harbuck reported that the Commissioners had approved an increase in the hourly wages from \$7.25 to \$12.50 for Early Voting poll workers. Harbuck apologized for not having gotten the Board's involvement in this but explained that Warren had approached the County Manager asking for a possible increase and that he had taken immediate action on the request.

Warren reported that the staff had almost completed the redistricting that had been required as a result of State redistricting plan not being approved by the federal government. She presented the new map that shows Monroe County will continue to be represented by three (3) state representatives – Districts 144, 145, and 118. All of these seats will be on the ballot for the May General Primary.

Harbuck reported that Commissioners Rowland and Ambrose are leading a push to reduce the number of precincts in the county from the current fourteen (14) to perhaps 5 or 6. They see this as a cost savings measure. There may be a push to do this consolidation during 2024 but it will probably be best to delay until 2025 when there will only be only one municipal election rather than this busy 2024 election year. The County has assigned Dana Renaud to begin developing a plan to accomplish this. Harbuck explained that the Board needs to be actively involved in the process. She and the staff are wanting to consider moving to only one (1) precinct with the voting location in Forsyth. The Board had concerns about how this would be received by the voters, and Harbuck asked that the members continue to give thought to this issue for future discussion. It was agreed to invite Rowland and Renaud to the March board meeting.

The members were reminded that Early Voting for the upcoming Presidential Primaries would begin on February 19 for three weeks including two Saturdays. The ballot also includes a vote on the extension of the current one cent local option transportation tax.

Because of the PPP on March 12, the Board decided to postpone the March board meeting from the regular meeting day until Friday March 15 or Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> because of the need for the Board to certify the election results.

There being no additional business the meeting was adjourned