## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MADISON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION MAY 10, 2017

A public meeting of the Madison County Election Commission was noticed and duly held and conducted at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 10, 2017, in the Board of Room of the Madison County Chancery and Administrative Building in the City of Canton, Mississippi. The meeting was webcast live to the public through the County website. The following Commissioners were present at the beginning of the meeting:

District One Commissioner Timothy Jenkins District Two Commissioner Julia Hodges District Three Commissioner Pat Truesdale District Four Commissioner Azzie Jackson Adams

Also present were Circuit Clerk Anita Wray, Commission Attorney Spence Flatgard and Madison County IT Director Duane Thompson.

Commissioner Jenkins called the meeting to order and Commissioner Truesdale began the meeting with a prayer. Commissioner Jenkins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Commission reviewed the proposed minutes of its March meeting. Commissioner Hodges made a motion that the minutes be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Truesdale and was adopted by a unanimous vote. Following the vote, Commissioner Lacy joined the meeting.

The Commission next reviewed the proposed minutes of its April meeting. Commissioner Truesdale made a motion be accepted as presented with one change to the number of purged voters. Commissioner Jenkins seconded the motion.

The Commission voted as follows:

District One Commissioner Timothy Jenkins-"Aye" District Two Commissioner Julia Hodges-"Aye" District Three Commissioner Pat Truesdale-"Aye" District Four Commissioner Azzie Jackson-Adams-"Aye" District Five Commissioner Leroy Lacy-"Aye"

Circuit Clerk Wray reported that everything went well in the first primary elections in the municipalities. Now her office was working with the municipalities to provide voting equipment for run-off elections and the general elections and to coordinate Logic & Accuracy testing prior to those elections.

The Commissioners next submitted their individual lists of names to be purged from the voter rolls for voters who were deceased or who had moved. Commissioner Jenkins submitted a list of five (5) names, Commissioner Hodges submitted a list of twenty-six

(26) names, Commissioner Truesdale submitted a list of fifty-six (56) names, and Commissioner Jackson Adams submitted a list of seventeen (17) names. Each of these Commissioners also offered the required supporting documentation for their respective lists for the Commission's review. The Commission approved the purges upon a motion by Commissioner Hodges, a second by Commissioner Lacy and a unanimous vote of the Commission.

The Commission next considered Commissioner requests to acknowledge the appropriate change of status from active status to inactive status for names on the voter rolls. Commissioner Jenkins submitted a list of sixteen (16) names, Commissioner Hodges submitted a list of thirteen (13) names, Commissioner Truesdale submitted a list of one hundred and forty-six (146) names, Commissioner Jackson Adams submitted a list of one thirty three (33) names and Commissioner Lacy submitted a list of forty (40) names. Each of these Commissioners also offered the required supporting documentation for their respective lists for the Commission's review. The Commission approved the purges upon a motion by Commissioner Lacy, a second by Commissioner Jackson Adams and a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Under Old Business, Commissioner Jenkins offered to discuss with the County where to transfer or store the old TSX machines following the delivery of the new voting machines in July.

Commissioner Lacy raised the issue of the Commission appointing a spokesperson to handle media inquiries. Commissioner Jenkins reported that he had polled different county election commissions and, in those counties, commissioners either spoke for themselves or allowed the Chairman to speak for the Commission. Commissioner Hodges suggested the Commission Attorney speak to legal matters to which Counsel agreed. Commissioner Lacy suggested considering having one spokesperson to talk with the media on non-legal matters. The Commission agreed to further discuss the issue and, in the meantime, address requests from the media on a case by case basis.

Under New Business, the Commission reviewed and discussed its expense report through April of 2017. Commissioner Hodges gathered each Commissioner's preferences for their business cards and will convey those to the County for ordering. Commissioner Truesdale announced that the Secretary of State's office generated a report for the Commission that showed 397 felons who had committed disenfranchising crimes were on the County voter rolls. She also produced the Secretary of State's list of what is a disenfranchising crime. As a first step and prior to purging, the Commission directed its attorney to review the list of crimes and report back to the Commission his view on which are disenfranchising and which are not.

The Commission next reviewed the interaction of the municipalities and the County in execution of the recent municipal primary elections. Commissioner Jenkins discussed two letters he had received from voters criticizing poll workers at Ridgeland Recreation Center and the Canton Fire Department on Highway 16. Commissioner Hodges informed the Commission that the most frequent complaint in her District was regarding

poll workers who did not get the voting machines running at the beginning of the day. Commissioner Lacy commented that he sees a trend of poll workers mistakenly acting with the mindset of that of a policemen instead of just executing their Poll Manager duties.

The Commission weighed the delicate balance of more County involvement in municipal elections while still allowing the municipalities and political parties to run their own elections. Commissioner Truesdale observed that the challenge in municipal elections is that the duty to run them falls on city clerks and municipal party leaders only once every four (4) years so it is difficult to remember all the details necessary for a successful election. Following Commissioner Truesdale's suggestion, the Commission resolved to draft a document illustrating the parameters of the County's offered assistance and the municipalities' responsibilities for the next municipal election cycle. Clerk Wray offered to draft a checklist and timeline to give to the municipalities at the beginning of the next election cycle.

Under Comments from Commissioners, Commissioner Hodges noted that the Courthouse parking lot seemed more full on days jury pools report for duty than in the past and discussed with Clerk Wray the likelihood that the purging of voter rolls may be one of the reasons. Commissioner Truesdale gave the Commission Attorney an affidavit to follow up on from a voter who stated that David M. Brown was wrongly registered at his address. Commissioner Lacy discussed the advantages of each Commissioner handling returned jury summons from their District.

Information Technology Director Duane Thompson reported that the new personal computers for the Commission were installed and two (2) scanners would be installed.

The Commission Attorney commended the Commission and Circuit Clerk for proactively fixing the voter rolls for the municipal elections to ensure that each voter received the correct ballot. He reported that each Commissioner could decide whether or not to use the electronic poll books in their District, and they did not have to be used in each District. The Commission reviewed its attorney's bill and Commissioner Hodges made a motion to approve it which was seconded by Commissioner Lacy, and approved by the unanimous vote of the Commission.

The Commission concluded its consideration of the agenda items and adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent to reconvene at its next regularly scheduled meeting on June 14, 2017.

WITNESS OUR HANDS, this the 12 day of July

2017

TIMOTHY JENKA

**CHAIRMAN** 

JULIA HODGES SECRETARY