

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

A Special Meeting of the Fayette County Board of Commissioners was held on Wednesday, February 6, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Public Service Building, Uniontown, PA.

Present: Commissioner Vince Zapotosky, Chairman  
Commissioner Vincent A. Vicites, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Angela M. Zimmerlink, Secretary  
Judy M. Bodkin, Chief Clerk  
Warren Hughes, County Manager  
Sheryl Heid, Assistant County Solicitor

- Meeting Called to Order
- Silent Prayer
- Pledge of Allegiance

- Public Comment on Agenda Items

Fred Junko a South Union Township resident gave his support of the new voting machines the Escans that were on the agenda to be voted on today. He stated that as a voter, he personally witnessed hesitation and lack of understanding with regards to the voting machines we presently have. He thanked the Commissioners for voting on the Escans at today's meeting.

Delinda Young, resident of Fayette County also spoke on behalf of the Escan Voting Machines, stating that she was glad that Commissioners looked at the machines. As a poll worker, she also had seen firsthand, the long lines and hesitation on the voters on Election Day the last couple of years.

- Commissioners Office

Commissioner Vicites said the Escans will give voters a choice and that over the last few years since the new machines were purchased, people have complained about the Eslates.

Controller Lally stated that after speaking with Hart Intercivic and working on the particulars, he feels comfortable with the purchase stating that there is 170,000.00 in the budget for the purchase of voting machines. He also spoke about the idea of possibly selling some of the Eslates if after the election we find that people are not using them stating that there is a possibility that we could receive at least \$1500.00 per unit, which could possibly make the 2009 payment. The money would be appropriated for the following years. He also stated that personally he dislikes the machines used in the previous elections.

Commissioner Zimmerlink stated she would make her comments or ask questions after the motion was made because she wasn't sure what the motion would be.

**Moved** by Commissioner Zapotosky and second by Commissioner Vicites to purchase 113 Escan machines from Hart Intercivic, the purchase includes a 10% overhead, and an HP9050dn Printer. Purchase would be an amendment to current contract, and Hart Intercivic would have everything ready for the April 22, 2008 Primary. Total purchase price would be 580,120.00

Commissioner Zimmerlink asked Controller Lally if there was a plan in place to definitely sell the voting machines. Both Controller Lally and Commissioner Zapotosky stated no that this was just an option depending upon what takes place in the elections this year. Commissioner Zimmerlink also stated that the money placed in the 2008 budget was specifically for the purchase of additional Eslates.

Commissioner Zimmerlink asked if Privacy Booths were considered in the purchase price. Commissioner Zapotosky said privacy booths were not considered into the price. Quotes were received from William Penn and Inclusion Solutions with regards to both cardboard and plastic privacy booths. Laurie Lint, Director of the Election Bureau stated that she has also requested a quote from Hart Intercivic, but had not received it at this time. Solicitor Heid stated that if the quotes were over \$10,000.00 the privacy booths would then have to be bid out, which could be a time factor.

Commissioner Zimmerlink asked if any consideration was given to the fact that we may need additional workers for the polls the day of elections and additional equipment. The Director stated that her only worry was the printing, and the new printer would take care of that problem. Commissioner Zimmerlink inquired about the need for off site rental. Per Director of Elections Laurie Lint there is no need for this at this time, as extra room will be made in the basement to accommodate the new voting machines.

Commissioner Zimmerlink stated that she thought that there was an option to lease the Escans. Commissioners Vicites and Zapotosky explained that there was no such option.

Commissioner Zapotosky	aye
Commissioner Vicites	aye
Commissioner Zimmerlink	abstain

Motion passed 2 to 0

Commissioner Zimmerlink is abstaining due the fact that she states that there is insufficient information provided to the county as well as voters, lack of input with Judges of Elections for her to make an informed decision, so she has no alternative but to abstain.

- Public Comment:

An individual named Randy said he was given a guided tour for the new voting machines and he supports the commissioners in their purchase of the Escan Voting Machines.

Delinda Young said she has been tracking this machine since 2002. She stated that the dial wheel is

better than touch screen but she prefers a paper ballot system because it has a paper trail. She said along came Hart Intercivic but they did not have a touch screen machine. She said, at that time the Board of Commissioners purchased what was available and they did well. The Commissioners adopted a dial wheel system, which was even at one point given favorable remarks. In the events of recounts and or presidential elections a paper ballot is needed and this is a good move.

Commissioner Zimmerlink confirmed with Mrs. Lint, Director of Election Bureau that the DRE - Eslates do have a paper trail saying there seems to be some miscommunication with regards to that voting machine. Mrs. Lint confirmed this saying a printout can be given on every vote on the machine. If there was a need for an audit there is a paper trail. An Audit is done after every election.

Commissioner Vicites stated that he wants to be able to give the voters a choice in machines.

**Moved** by Commissioner Zimmerlink to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Commissioner Vicites.

Commissioner Zapotosky	aye
Commissioner Vicites	aye
Commissioner Zimmerlink	aye

Motion passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned