

TERM OF COMMISSION: June Session of the April Adjourned Term

PLACE OF MEETING: Roger B. Wilson Boone County Government Center
Room 338

PRESENT WERE: Presiding Commissioner Edward H. Robb
District I Commissioner Karen M. Miller
District II Commissioner Skip Elkin
Boone County Clerk Wendy Noren
Boone County Treasurer Nicole Galloway
Deputy County Clerk Cameron Clarke
Deputy County Clerk Kristina Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.m.

County Clerk

1. Budget Amendment for \$25,000 grant from US EAC (first reading)

Boone County Clerk Wendy Noren was present to discuss the acceptance of this grant from the US Election Assistance Commission (US EAC). Ms. Noren stated this grant sets up an increase in revenue of \$25,000 and an increase in expenditures of \$3,500. Ms. Noren stated the \$3,500 will be used towards contracting statistical review work that needs to be done. The balance covers reimbursement for Ms. Noren's salary, as well as the salaries of some of Ms. Noren's employees in the County Clerk's office. The statistical review is a project Ms. Noren has wanted to do for a long time, and this grant will help pay for it. Ms. Noren stated that over \$40,000 was spent in 2009 testing ballot combinations and equipment. Ms. Noren stated she had a design in her head of how to improve the process. Ms. Noren stated it was very fortunate that a grant notice was put out to create improvements to the ballot process. The goal is to first improve our system using Microsoft Access, and then make it available to other jurisdictions that use the same software that Boone County uses. The second phase is to make them available to other jurisdictions within the State of Missouri.

Commissioner Robb asked Ms. Noren if this would create addition revenue for Boone County.

Ms. Noren stated that this would not create any additional revenue.

Commissioner Miller asked Ms. Noren to inform the Commission about what is happening with the Election Assistance Commission.

Ms. Noren replied that a markup of a bill has been created to abolish the US EAC. Ms. Noren stated it has taken a few years for the federal government to understand that elections are conducted by local officials. Ms. Noren stated that this is the first grant

directed towards local officials. Ms. Noren said that if one looks at the results of the grant awards, one will find that local officials had a lot of good ideas. Ms. Noren stated it is disturbing that the federal government wants to abolish the EAC, even though the organization has experienced growing pains. Ms. Noren stated that the organization's problems are slowly fading, and that it will be more difficult to create a new agency from scratch. Ms. Noren can understand Congress' frustrations, but now the debate has broken down into a partisan fight. Ms. Noren stated that because of this she is not sure what is going to happen to the EAC. Ms. Noren stated what concerns her is that they have decided to move some of the mandated functions of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) such as the development of standards for voting equipment and how grants will be disbursed over to the Federal Elections Commission (FEC). Ms. Noren stated that the FEC had some of this power prior to HAVA, but they never worked on these issues. The other piece that troubles Ms. Noren is there is an advisory board that works with the EAC that is mandated under HAVA. The board has representatives of various groups that advise the board of where to go with money and how the standards should be written. The National Association of Counties (NACO) had two representatives on this board, but they would be eliminated from the new process under the FEC.

Commissioner Miller stated that she appointed these representatives when she was president.

Ms. Noren stated the proposed new advisory board has completely cut out county government. Ms. Noren stated the reason she is upset is because county governments are the primary funding authority for elections in this country. Ms. Noren said she would estimate 80-85% of the costs of elections are funded by county governments. In addition to cutting out NACO, the National Council of Mayors has been eliminated. Ms. Noren stated as a compromise, the new advisory board has allowed states to appoint local officials. Ms. Noren stated she would prefer the EAC be maintained rather than starting from scratch and educating a whole new group of people about how elections are conducted. Ms. Noren stated it took several years to educate the EAC about elections.

Commissioner Miller asked Ms. Noren if NACO has contacted her office.

Ms. Noren replied they had and said she spent over an hour on the phone with them discussing this issue. Ms. Noren explained that county government should have equal weight when discussing election issues, but that it was up to NACO if they wanted to get involved in a political fight.

Commissioner Miller responded that she was glad NACO contacted Ms. Noren and thanked her for the update.

Ms. Noren stated she has been in contact with Matt Blunt's office concerning this issue because he was one of the principle people involved in the development of HAVA, and he understands the political frustrations in the birthing of the US EAC. Ms. Noren stated after a few years we are beginning to see the direct benefit of the US EAC and hopes we

won't have to start over with a new agency.

The Commissioners thanked Ms. Noren for her time.

Commissioner Robb stated that this was a first reading and instructed the Deputy County Clerk to schedule this item for a second reading after the 10 day waiting period required for budget amendments with an appropriate order for approval.

Treasurer's Office

2. Authorize the County Treasurer to find unclaimed property belonging to Boone County with the State Treasurer's Office (first and second reading)

Boone County Treasurer Nicole Galloway was present to discuss this item. Ms. Galloway stated that she would like to claim Boone County's unclaimed property with the State on behalf of all Boone County Departments. In addition, Ms. Galloway stated that she would like to conduct a quarterly search of unclaimed property with the State to determine if Boone County has any outstanding property. Ms. Galloway stated that she would also work with the Auditor to properly account for all the property. Ms. Galloway stated that when she searched for "Boone County" on the State Treasurer Office's website she found 8 different departments within Boone County that have unclaimed property totaling about \$1,000 worth of property. Ms. Galloway stated she believes by using additional search terms she may be able to find additional property. Ms. Galloway stated the Circuit Clerk is concerned that property showing up under her name could be wage garnishments which do not actually belong to the County, but belong to other people. Ms. Galloway stated that until Boone County claims this, the people the money belongs to cannot claim their property because it is in the County's name. Ms. Galloway stated that she can obtain a report from the state that would list the amount of money, the employer, the employee, and contact information so that the County could try to return it to the people it belongs to.

The Commissioners stated they were in agreement with this proposal.

Commissioner Miller stated she hopes Ms. Galloway can present a report on the record that can provide information about how much money she has found, and how much goes to citizens. Commissioner Miller stated she believes the people would like to know this information.

Ms. Galloway stated that she would include a date range in the report to see how far back the unclaimed property goes.

Commissioner Robb asked how many years it takes to default.

Ms. Galloway stated that the law recently changed and it takes three years to default.

Commissioner Miller moved on this day the County Commission of the County of Boone does hereby authorize the County Treasurer to periodically inspect the unclaimed property records of the Missouri State Treasurer and, when appropriate, make application on behalf of the County to the Missouri State Treasurer for all unclaimed property that lists Boone County or Boone County officials in their official capacities as owners of the funds. The County Treasurer will notify all impacted county officials as to any funds received that appear to be an appropriate credit to their offices and will coordinate with the County Auditor as to the appropriate booking of any funds received.

Commissioner Elkin seconded the motion.

The motion carried 3 to 0. **Order # 210-2006**

Commission

3. Public Comment

4. Commissioner Reports

The Commissioners thanked Deputy County Clerk Kristina Johnson for her service to the County and wished her the best as she goes back to school and furthers her education.

The meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Attest:

Edward H. Robb
Presiding Commissioner

Wendy S. Noren
Clerk of the County Commission

Karen M. Miller
District I Commissioner

Skip Elkin
District II Commissioner