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## Anderson County Election Commission Minutes

January 16, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 5:19 p.m. by Chair Miller. In addition, to Miller, Commissioners Matheny, Bradshaw, Gallaher and Stephenson were present along with Administrator Stephens, Chief Deputy Eby, Deputies Price and Rogers. Attending from the Anderson County Finance Department was Payroll Manager Paul Richardson. Also attending from the public were Robert Walker, Lou Ann Cristy and Stephen Cristy.

A motion was made by Bradshaw to approve the minutes from October 17, November 5 and November 21. Gallaher seconded the motion with all voting in favor.

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Public comments were made by Robert Walker and Lou Ann Cristy. Some discussion followed.

The board conducted the quarterly inspection of voter registration forms. 100 forms were inspected with no deficiencies found.

The annual Sexual Harassment Training materials, required by the State, were given to each member to read.

Stephens informed the board that he had met with the Oak Ridge School System concerning the issue at Woodland Elementary School on Election Day in November. He said that the issue would be resolved.

Stephens told the board that a representative from KnowInk had done a demo of the Poll Pads. He said it would be easier to post election history and get voters to the right location. He said he hoped to have them in use in the May 2026 election.

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Stephens talked about several proposed legislative bills. Those included easier access for third parties to gain access to the ballot, city ward elections and challenging voters at the precinct.

Stephens gave out copies of EAVS and voter registration data to the board.

Stephens referenced a letter from the Budget Committee that had been received in December concerning shortfalls in the budget. Poll Workers and Machine Technicians codes had been overspent. He said that the new voting system took more hours and that the State had recommended overstaffing because of the nature of the election. The letter also referenced Part Time help, but Stephens said that it was not overspent. He said that the budget he had submitted was cut 45%. He and Chair Miller will be attending the February Budget Committee meeting on February 6 at 4 p.m. He said that the Election Office has Maintenance of Effort and that he had not played that card. Commissioner Stephenson asked if they should contact the committee members and Stephens said it was up to them. Stephens said that the county is required to fund the Election Office. He said that a transfer, appropriation or a combination of both could resolve the shortfalls. During the last Budget Committee meeting, a no confidence vote was passed. Commissioner Matheny asked about a lawsuit and Stephens said he didn't want to go that route. Commissioner Bradshaw asked if Stephens had been contacted prior to December concerning the issue. Stephens said he didn't believe so. Bradshaw said they should be able to sit down and work it out.

Stephens asked Payroll Manager Richardson if he had anything he would like to say. Richardson said that the County had requested a no increase budget and offered opportunities to defend an increase. Emails had been sent to all departments informing them that they could go before the Budget Committee. He also said that negative payroll codes would equal audit findings by the State Comptroller. He said that they could come in and take control. He said that the letter sent to Stephens concerning the issues had projected Part Time Help to be over budget if those workers continued the schedule they had been working with approximately 5 1/2 months left in the budget year. Stephens had let those workers know that they would not be able to work any more hours. The code has been left with approximately \$155.

Stephens said that Finance has asked for time sheets to be supplied with each payroll summary. Stephenson said he didn't see why not if there was nothing to hide. Bradshaw asked Richardson what percentage of departments submitted them. Richardson said that most departments in the courthouse did. Gallaher said he didn't see why they shouldn't be submitted.

Gallagher made a motion to start attaching the timesheets. Bradshaw said that felt that further clarification was needed. Gallagher tabled the motion. It was decided to re-address the issue in February.


The next meeting was set for February 20, 2025 at 5 p.m.

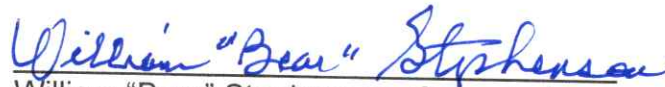
A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Stephenson with a second by Gallagher. All voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

  
D. Jane Miller, Chair

  
Mary Matheny, Secretary

  
David Bradshaw, Commissioner

  
William T. Gallagher, Commissioner

  
William "Bear" Stephenson, Commissioner