

Scott County Board of Supervisors
December 18, 2018 8:00 a.m.

The Board of Supervisors met pursuant to adjournment with Earnhardt, Knobbe, Beck and Kinzer present. Supervisor Holst was absent.

This special meeting was called for the purpose of canvassing the votes cast at the December 11, 2018 Special Elections for the Bettendorf and Davenport School Districts.

Roxanna Moritz, County Auditor, said there was a good turnout and that poll centers were used throughout the Bettendorf and Davenport school districts. She said the bond issue in Bettendorf needed 60 percent to pass, and the physical plant and equipment levy in Davenport needed a simple majority to pass. She said to save money a paper ballot was used which eliminated the need for programming machines. She said ballots were hand counted. She said the turnout in Bettendorf was 15.38 percent and in Davenport it was 4.64 percent.

Supervisor Earnhardt asked who headed the organization that was against the bond issue in Bettendorf. She said it was a citizens group and had been seeing the advertisements.

Richard Bauer said he was not sure who the leader was. He said someone came to the Auditor's Office and picked up information.

Supervisor Beck said it was the same group that opposed taking down the two old schools.

Supervisor Knobbe asked Moritz to explain the vote centers.

Moritz said the law allows the use of vote centers in school elections. She said she picked two centers in Bettendorf and eight in Davenport. She also said anyone could vote at any one of the centers within their school district. She said she thinks it is the school's responsibility to let people know about the election.

Earnhardt said she thought if supporters wanted it to pass they should have campaigned and sent mail to everybody that had children in school.

Knobbe asked what it saved by not having to do the programming.

Bauer said it probably saved five to ten thousand dollars in Davenport.

Moritz said she supported combining the school and city elections to save money, but combining elections causes more work for the Auditor's Office. She said auditors have to chart how to charge the community schools and the cities for election costs. She said members of the Auditor's Association are discussing that issue right now. She said

many auditors want the counties to pay for the combined city and school elections, but she does not. She said the combined elections will create a little more work for her office, but each jurisdiction needs a little skin in the game and so everyone needs to be charged a percentage of the election costs. She said cities and schools pay a portion of local election costs but the county pays a significant amount too.

Beck asked if there was a reason schools and cities are not charged for all of the costs.

Moritz said the law does not allow it. She said that to run elections in September, October and November her office does not have election equipment to facilitate that quick of a turnaround. She said she supports putting all the work on the front end and avoid the extra costs of two elections. She said the voter turnout would be higher for school elections if combined with city elections.

Kinzer asked who picks the polling places.

Moritz said she does and that she picks them based on availability of locations.

Kinzer said there was some confusion among people that asked him about polling places that they thought they had to vote in their precinct. He said he told them to go to any of the vote centers and to go to the Auditor's website to find the listed locations.

Moved by Earnhardt, seconded by Beck a motion to certify the results of said election. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Moved by Earnhardt, seconded by Beck at 8:19 a.m. a motion to adjourn the special meeting. All Ayes.

Tony Knobbe, Chair of the Board
Scott County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: Roxanna Moritz
Scott County Auditor