

NEW JERSEY ELECTION LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES - February 2, 1977 Meeting

PRESENT

ABSENT

Frank P. Reiche, Chairman
Sidney Goldmann, Vice-Chairman
Josephine S. Margetts, Member
Archibald S. Alexander, Member
Lewis B. Thurston, III, Executive Director
Edward J. Farrell, Legal Counsel
Herbert Alexander, Consultant
Neil Upmeyer, E.L.E.C. staff

The meeting convened at 10:15 a.m.

Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Law, P.L. 1975, c.231, annual notice of the meetings of the Commission, as amended, was filed with the Secretary of State's office, copies were posted in the State House Annex, copies were mailed to the Newark Star Ledger and the Philadelphia Bulletin and the entire State House Press Corps.

1. E.L.E.C. Meeting Schedule for March, 1977

The Commission agreed to delete from the schedule the March 16 meeting and to substitute in its place a meeting on March 8.

2. E.L.E.C. 1977-78 Budget

The Executive Director reported on the Governor's budget recommendations. The total recommended, \$2,211,311, is \$46,121 less than the total of \$2,257,432 requested by the Commission. It includes the entire \$1,812,088 that the Commission requested for public financing of the gubernatorial general election. He further reported on the anticipated account-by-account breakdown of the total recommended.

3. Additional office space

The Executive Director reported that authorization had been obtained from the Division of Purchase and Property to contract for additional office space adjacent to our present space to house the staff files and equipment necessary to administer the public financing of the gubernatorial general election. It is anticipated that the Division of Purchase and Property will immediately negotiate a lease with the landlord for this purpose. The Executive Director described in general a revised floor plan for use of the existing and anticipated new office space. He indicated the goal is to improve the management and efficiency of the organization. It is anticipated the plan will be implemented within the next several weeks.

4. Activity and filings of gubernatorial candidates

The Executive Director reported on the filings of the gubernatorial candidates thus far and indicated that he anticipated a number of additional filings in the very near future.

5. Regulations on Public Financing of Gubernatorial General Election

The Commission reviewed the regulations which were filed with the Division of Administrative Procedure on January 26, 1977. A number of suggestions for slight language amendments were put forth. The general format of and procedures in regard to a public hearing on February 15 on these regulations were discussed.

6. Minutes of Commission Meetings

The drafts of the minutes of the following Commission meetings, in some cases with changes, were approved:

September 16, 1976 - Public Session
October 12, 1976 - Public and Executive Sessions
October 22, 1976 - Public and Executive Sessions
November 4, 1976 - Public and Executive Sessions
November 9, 1976 - Public Session
November 18, 1976 - Public and Executive Sessions
December 15, 1976 - Public Session
December 16, 1976 - Public Session
January 6, 1977 - Public Session

Each of these minutes was approved by a vote of 4-0 except for the October 22 minutes which was approved by a vote of 3-0 with Commissioner Goldmann, who was absent for that meeting, not voting. The minutes of the November 4 meeting were approved but subsequently the approval was rescinded and the minutes approved with amendments.

7. Outstanding fines

The Commission discussed the subject of fines which have not been paid in regard to a number of cases where determinations were made in 1973, 1974 and 1975. It was agreed that the next step in pursuing this matter would be for counsel to address a letter to some of the individuals involved indicating that the Commission is prepared to take further legal steps to ensure payment of the fine if the fine was not paid by a certain date (to be specified in the letter).

8. Recruiting effort re staff counsel

Pursuant to C.10:4-12 of the Open Public Meetings Law, the Commission went into executive session to discuss personnel matters relating to the above-cited topic. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Commission returned to public session.

9. Ricci vs. Senior Citizens and Taxpayers Fed Up With Byrne Democrats - 327-75

On motion by Commissioner Alexander, duly seconded, the Commission adopted the attached amendment to the opinion previously rendered in this case.

Minutes

Feb. 2, 1977

Page 3

10. Current Investigation

Pursuant to C.10:4-12 of the Open Public Meetings Law, the Commission went into executive session to discuss a matter currently under investigation. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Commission returned to public session.

11. Adjournment - The Commission adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



LEWIS B. THURSTON, III
Executive Director

LBT/cm