



Republican party chair files for recount

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

When someone loses an election by a landslide, most voters feel a measure of confidence that their voice was heard and the election turned out the way it was supposed to turn out.

However, when a candidate loses to an opponent by a mere three votes, and there were documented problems with the way some ballots were electronically scanned and tabulated, it sends up a red flag.

That is exactly what happened in the last general election in Carroll County. The election board decided to recount

several races for township advisory board and those results were certified Nov. 20. Per Indiana statute, party chairs were allowed the opportunity to request recounts up to noon on Nov. 27.

Republican Party Chairman Tom Gray met the deadline and filed a petition with the county clerk requesting a recount in the Liberty and Jackson townships advisory board races.

"Every machine has a slight margin of error," Gray said. "In both townships, the race was only three votes different."

"I felt like we should do a recount to know the results were true," he added.

The petition names Tom Gray as the petitioner and the Carroll County

Election Board, consisting of Laura Sterrett, Sam Deiwert and Gil Smith, and Laura Sterrett in her capacity as clerk of Carroll County as the respondents.

The petition, given cause number 08C01-0611-MI6-7, was forwarded to Carroll Circuit Court for action. Per Indiana Code, Judge Donald Currie will appoint a three-member recount commission and set a per diem rate for each member to be paid for each recount.

Gray provided \$200 of his own money to hold as a bond or deposit against the cost of the recount. IC 3-12-6-17.5 (a) states: "If the amount of the cash deposit or bond available under

section 10 of this chapter is not adequate to pay the compensation of the recount commission under section 17 of this chapter, a member of the recount commission is entitled to compensation from the county general fund without appropriation..." Section (b) states: "Any other cost of the recount that remains unpaid following the determination of the recount commission and which cannot be recovered from the cash deposit or bond shall be paid from the county general fund without appropriation."

Gray said two of the three members of the Republican Central Committee, secretary Beth Myers and vice president Neda K. Duff, were aware of the action.

"They didn't tell me I shouldn't do this," he said.

According to county clerk Laura Sterrett, Indiana Code provides for the recount commission to be comprised of two voters who are members of different major political parties and both qualified to vote in the last county election, plus one member of the state's major political party. The third member of the commission must be competent and familiar with the voting system.

"This may or may not change the results," Gray said. "But all candidates deserve an accurate count."

Schooler to marshal Christmas Parade

Comet Staff report

Well-traveled Lions Club member Bill Schooler will be at the helm for Saturday's Delphi Christmas Parade.



Schooler

Schooler graduated from Delphi High School in 1947. His parents, Bill and Martha Schooler, were teachers in the Delphi and Carroll County school systems.

After college graduation, he served in the Counter Intelligence Corps during the Korean War.

Returning to civilian life, he entered the teaching profession in Hammond with his wife Jean. He taught math, then progressed to school principal, business manager and assistant superintendent of schools in Hammond.

Schooler retired after 36 years in education and became Chairman of the Board of Lake Federal Bank for 15 years.

He and his wife have two sons, Greg and Bruce, both Purdue graduates.

Schooler has enthusiastically supported and worked in community betterment activities such as park boards, YMCA, Special Olympics, education foundations, little league and AAU basketball. He has more than 50 years of service in the service club Lions International.

As a Lion, he served all club offices. He was elected District Governor and then International Director. As director, he traveled the world, visiting most U.S. states and 18 countries.

Schooler returned to Delphi after retirement and has continued to be active in community by serving on the mayoral committee.

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Parade is Saturday

Delphi's annual Christmas Parade, sponsored by Delphi Lions Club, will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday. Lineup starts at 12 noon at the Monroe Street Gym, with judging at 12:30 p.m. Participants may also enter the parade from Franklin to Ohio streets or High Street.

For more information, call Ed and Donna Sholty at (765) 564-3514 or Darrel Noonkester at 564-6077.

Mailing label goes here

Variety entertainment offered at Canal holiday open house

Comet Staff report

Music, art, and pioneer crafts will be offered at the Old Fashioned Christmas Open House Dec. 9 and 10 at Canal Park.

Hours for the event will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

A new feature this year will be musical performances by singer and actor Kathy McGraw of Frankfort. Dressed in Victorian costume, she will perform at the Canal Center at 1 and 3 p.m. on Saturday and at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Her program, "Dickens of a Christmas," will include such songs as "Here We Come A-Wassaling," and "Listen to the Sound of the Christmas Spirit."

McGraw has had her own variety show called "Kathy's Variety" since 1994. She has been a soloist and actress for Lafayette Civic Theatre, Clinton County Civic, and Myers Dinner Theatre. She also led the Community Sing for Downtown Lafayette's Dickens of a Christmas Event for four years, and she has been an amateur ballroom dancer for 10 years.

Additional music throughout both days will be offered by the Carroll County Community Band.

Buildings in the canal village will be open, including a one-room log schoolhouse, which was moved recently to the park.

Tours of the Reed Case House will be offered, and free refreshments will be served there.

Delphi and area artists will display their work in the Canal Center conference room both days.

Broom making will be demonstrated in the Kuns Cabin. Other craftsmen and



To perform at Canal Christmas Singer Kathy McGraw will perform at the Old Fashioned Christmas Open House Dec. 9 and 10 at Canal Park, Delphi. Photo provided

artisans will be in the Canal Center and throughout the park.

Also available at the open house will be carriage rides,

hot apple dumplings in the conference room, cookie sales in the Interpretive Center, and Cabin Crafts Gift Shop in the Bowen log house.

Election process in action... striving to be correct

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Two years ago in the county council race, the Carroll County Election Board discovered some ballots in township races without a full slate were not counted correctly by voting machines. The scanner used to read ballot results did not accurately tabu-

late all ballots voting straight tickets. County election officials responded by hand-counting those races.

Board members understood that by using the same machines in the recent Nov. 7 general election they would be faced with a similar problem. They reacted by not only hand-counting ballots in township advisory board races,

but anticipated a re-count in precincts where hand-count and machine tallies showed significant differences.

According to county clerk and election board member Laura Sterrett, all election results had to be certified by Nov. 20 at noon. Therefore board members, along with party chairmen and other interested residents, met the morning of Nov. 17 to do the tedious task of re-counting ballots from four precincts in Deer Creek and Burlington townships.

"We want to be accurate," Sterrett said. "We aren't going to have this problem next year, but we have to contend with it right now, for this past election."

Results of the recount did change two outcomes in township advisory board races.

Election results were certified by the county election board Monday morning. Winners in the Deer Creek race were Sherry Mears with 834 votes, Mary Clifford with 655 and Melissa Darling with 644 votes. Before the recount James M. Shaffer was declared a winner.

Winners in the Burlington Township board race were Linda Heinzelman with 398 votes, Jim Walker with 387 and John Bogue with 386 votes. Before the recount, Linda Huffer was tied with Jim Walker.



Election board members strive for excellence County election board members Gil Smith and Sam Deiwert read ballot results from Burlington Township advisory board race. Board member Laura Sterrett tallied the results, which were checked by another staff member from the clerk's office. Comet photo by Debbie Lowe

Council compelled to settle

Bailiff to receive full-time benefits, but no medical coverage

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Carroll County Council decided in a split vote to strike a compromise with Superior Court Judge Jeffrey Smith to settle a personnel issue without going through costly litigation. However, council members expressed their unhappiness with the situation.

Smith had previously requested that the county pay his substitute court bailiff, hired to do the work of the full-time bailiff, who is on unpaid medical leave, full salary and benefits, including medical coverage. The Council denied that request citing the substitute court bailiff was a temporary employee and was not entitled to that pay and benefits.

On Nov. 9, Smith issued a mandate (allowed by state statute), ordering that the substitute court bailiff be paid full-time wages, plus benefits, including medical insurance.

Council members objected to the mandate and met in executive session with county attorney Barry Emerson Nov. 17 to discuss the matter. The following is the result of that meeting.

Resolution 2006-5, presented by Emerson, reads in part: "Be it resolved by the Carroll County Council as follows:

That Dee Dellenbach shall be recognized as an employee mandated by the Court pursuant to the Carroll County Personnel Policy, and she shall receive all the benefits of a full time employee, excluding health insurance coverage, so long as the bailiff on medical leave is receiving medical insurance coverage.

Dee Dellenbach shall receive an employment wage of \$11.55 per hour, beginning from her date of hire of Sept. 28, 2006.

The Carroll County Council waives trial on the merits of the Order For Mandate of Funds and agree to enter into an agreed order with the Judge of the Carroll Superior Court that incorporates the terms and conditions of this resolution.

"I am disappointed we had to come to this point," council president Rob Baker said after the three-to-two vote to adopt the resolution.

Council member Carl Abbott said the compromise was necessary "to save the taxpayers of Carroll County the cost of litigation."

Outgoing council member John Blackburn agreed with Abbott. The third council member to vote in favor of the compromise was Nancy Cripe.

"I feel it's in the best interest of the county to not spend thousands of dollars," explained Cripe.

Council members Ann Brown and Steve Ashby, who said he voted his conscience, voted against the resolution. Council member Jerry Hendress

abstained due to a potential job conflict. Baker did not vote.

Brown said she called several county residents to ask for opinions about how to vote in the matter.

"No one was in favor of settling," she said. "They did not feel it was a financial or a legal issue, but a matter of what is right and wrong."

In a statement after the meeting adjourned, Baker said the cost of litigation could have exceeded \$100,000.

Smith said that when he filed the mandate he, "did not anticipate being in the position that we both put ourselves in."

Baker questioned Smith about how the position would be filled when or if the absent employee resigned. Smith said after six months from the beginning of the unpaid medical leave, the fill-in employee would become the permanent employee. He said she would have had six months of training by that time and he would bring her onboard without following county hiring protocol.

"She's proven to be an excellent employee," he said. "She will just become a regular employee."

When questioned by Brown about extending the medical leave (of the permanent, full-time court bailiff), a situation provided for in the county personnel policy, Smith declined to state definitely he would not grant the extension.

Additional appropriations

The council approved an additional appropriation of \$22,500 for a new boiler for the courthouse.

The sheriff was denied an additional appropriation for \$5,849.90 in favor of using river boat gambling money. The funds are needed for a grant match to be used to purchase new vests for all deputies and reserve deputies.

The health department was given \$822.25 for personal health and the highway department \$471,772.91 for bituminous material. Both amounts were received from outside sources and receipted into the general fund before being dispersed to the two departments.

Transfers approved:

Extension office - \$500 from maintenance person to utilities;
Election - \$45.88 from roving board, \$55 from assistant canvas board and \$275 from training to clerical, and \$500 from postage to the Help America Vote Act account;

Commissioners - \$15,000 from workman's compensation to retirement, \$1,100 from workman's compensation and \$4,500 from the cost of keeping juveniles to examination of records;

Joint courts - \$1,200 to translators and \$1,000 to law books, both from per diem petit jurors;

Transfer station - \$400 from

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