

The Board of Barnes County Commissioners met in special session on Thursday, March 18, 2004, to allow the public to comment and discuss combining precincts in Barnes County. All members were present.

Also Present: Ken and Bea Cruff-Rogers, Robert Eggert-Ashtabula, Robert Lee-Ashtabula, Wally Kuder-Ashtabula, Brian Henders-Weimer, Arvid Winkler-Cuba, Dale Hildebrant-Stewart, Virginia Maasjo-Fingal, and Mike Schwehr-Ashtabula.

Auditor, Ed McGough, explained the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and how federal law has changed. He also explained how the election process will be conducted in future elections. He informed those present that a state steering committee on elections has recommended the number of precincts in each County for which Federal and State dollars will provide election counters. In Barnes County that number is 15. The Auditor and County Commissioners have combined precincts to reduce the number from 23 to 15.

After much discussion on the election process and the proposed combined precincts, it was the consensus of those present to proceed with the combined precinct locations and deal with any red flags that might come to light once we have been through the election process.

The County Commission will vote on the proposed election precincts at their April 6, 2004, Commission meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Berntson moved and Commissioner Schwehr seconded to adjourn.

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Edward R. McGough  
Barnes County Auditor

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Palmer Paulson, Chairman  
Barnes County Commission