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Crawford County Commission canvasses USD 247 election

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GIRARD — For every election, the county commission must canvass the results, and Tuesday's ballot question for USD 247 was no exception. However, there was plenty that made Tuesday's election a little different than typical canvasses.

The final vote tally did not change from Tuesday's preliminary results, with the ballot issue failing, 541 votes to 374. The issue would have given USD 247 school board the ability to increase its local option budget, and could have brought in about \$54,000 to the district.

Pyle said 2,716 registered voters in the district were sent the ballot question, and of those, 135 came back as undeliverable. Another 1,026 sent their ballot back, but not all were counted.

Of those that returned the ballot, 91 did not have the required signature and address on the back, 12 were signed by the wrong voter, and the signatures of 2 did not match. Furthermore, six votes arrived too late to be counted.

Ultimately, the 915 that were received accounted for about a 33.7 percent turnout (although 37 percent returned a ballot).

"Which, on an election like that, is great," Pyle said. "USD 250 had a bond measure three to four years ago, and that had 11 percent turnout. This is a lot higher, and it's a lot cheaper to run, too.

The cost (of a mail-in election) is about half the cost if we had done polling places. The cost was paid by the school district."

All told, he said the school district had to pay roughly \$4,000 for the ballot issue.

In other action, the county commission held a budget work session before the regularly scheduled commission meeting.

During that time, commissioners noted that they were still waiting on several important chunks of information before being ready to fully tackle balancing the county budget.

For instance, the county is still waiting on details to the cost of employee health insurance. It is also waiting for the final tally on assessed valuation, which is estimated to have risen by about \$2 million to \$234 million.

However, those are just preliminary numbers. Several properties are still going through the appeal stage, which could bring the assessed valuation down.

Furthermore, the commission will have to decide which departments will see a change from last year. Most departments asked for a flat budget from last year, but several, including the county EMS, have asked for an increase from the previous year.

Taking the county EMS as an example, the number of calls it receives in the last several years has doubled, and since 2009, has already seen its budget cut more than \$250,000.

**PLAINTIFFS'
EX. 377**

Several of the details county commissioners are waiting on should be revealed in the next week, prompting the commissioners to schedule another work session on Aug. 2 at 8:30 a.m.

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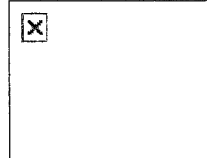
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