ELECTIONS COMMISSION
City and County of San Francisco

BUDGET AND OVERSIGHT OF
PUBLIC ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
(BOPEC)

Roger Donaldson, Chair   John Arntz, Director of
Elections Dominic Paris
Rosabella Safont   Don Chan, Secretary

MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)

**Budget and Oversight of Public Elections Committee
(BOPEC) of the San Francisco Elections Commission**

**Wednesday, February 7, 2018
6:00 p.m.
City Hall, Room 421
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, California 94102**

Order of Business

1. Call to Order & Roll Call
Acting Chair, Commissioner Paris called the meeting to order at 6:19 PM. Present: Commissioner Donaldson. Commissioner Safont was absent, excused. Also present: Director of Elections John Arntz, and Secretary Chan.

2. General Public Comment
Mr. Brent Turner said he is anxiously awaiting the Slalom report, and is hopeful that the coming budget will see significant support for the implementation of an open source voting system that will benefit the entire nation.

A member of the public, President of the California Clean Money Campaign, also stated excitement about San Francisco's efforts to have open source voting and encouraged the Commission to move forward with due speed.

3. Review of Department's proposed budget
Director Arntz briefly summarized the elements of the spreadsheets, showing the past/current costs categories, and the upcoming fiscal year. The '17-'18 budget is the current one, '18-'19 is next FY. The City went to a new fiscal system and resulted in some inaccuracies in figures pulled from the record. The Department had to manually re-insert the correct figures in some items.
Commissioner Paris asked how budget projections are made, what they are based on.
Director Arntz replied that base figures are pulled in from the current operating budget, with adjustments made for the upcoming year (eg. Salaries, benefits, fixed costs). For other costs, they try to forecast costs and income based on past elections experiences.

Commissioner Donaldson asked what the '17-'18 budget was. ($16.5 million).
He asked where the $2 million set for the interim voting system shows in the budget documents. (Under Professional Services).

Commissioner Paris asked why there was a slight decrease in that line item for FY '19-'20). (Essentially, the cost of two election systems will be covered in this year, so the future year budget will not have that expense listed)

Is there an item for developing the new voting system? (Not in the Department's budget. It could show up in the Department's general fund budget, but probably will go through the COIT budget.)

President Donaldson asked to have the process for funding the new voting system explained so the Commission can be prepared to act to prevent a gap in funding and interruption of progress toward open source voting. Director Arntz said that the Mayor's Office would have to review the business case (Slalom report) and decide if it was a fundable project and to what extent. While it appears as one of COIT's primary interest as a city wide project, there is no set amount allocated for it as yet. Slalom is reworking their report, based on comments they received as of January 26, but haven't said when they will complete it.

President Donaldson asked if there was an urgency to have the report? The Department's budget is due in the Mayor's Office February 21. He is not aware of when COIT's budget is completed.

There was a short explanation of how the City's budget is arrived at, in answer to the question of whether there was an avenue to obtain additional funds if the Department's budget somehow became short.

What is the cost of the Remote Accessible Voting system? ($100,000 for a 2 year contract. It is being finalized now; essentially a software license).

What part of the reimbursement from SFUSD will cover this? ($160,000 of the expected $421,000 will go for implementing Prop N. The city may do outreach in this regards but the Department doesn't know if that will be further reimbursed by SFUSD or the City will bear the costs.)

Is the cover letter to Director Arntz's budget report directed to the Committee/Commission? (It is also for the Mayor's Office.) President Donaldson suggested specifically mentioning the piece for Prop N.

Public Comment
A member of the public asked if the Mayor's Office approved going forward with the voting system, would they add that money to the Department or Coit's budget? (Not sure.)
What role will the Committee play in requesting funds for the voting system? Commissioner Paris explained that the Commission does not directly nor indirectly manage the Department's budget. President Donaldson suggested putting an item on the full Commission agenda to write a letter requesting the Mayor fully fund the Department's budget so the open source voting project can move ahead.

Public Comment
Mr. Brent Turner expressed concern for the Slalom report, and hoped that some of the open source experts who were referred to in the course of Slalom's preparation, might have the opportunity to give their comments to it also. He also commented that he hoped the City wouldn't be tied into a lease for the interim voting system if in fact the open source system was available.

Commissioner Paris moved to accept the proposed budget for FY 2018-19 and recommend its adoption by the full commission. President Donaldson seconded. Upon voice vote, the motion carried, 2-0.

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting
Commissioner Paris moved to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2017 meeting, seconded by President Donaldson. Upon voice vote, the motion carried 2-0.

5. Agenda items for future meetings
President Donaldson would like the Slalom report (if available) on the agenda.

Public Comment
A member of the public asked if this would be an appropriate item to raise the topic of writing the letter to the Mayor regarding the budget. President Donaldson said he anticipated having such an item on the next Commission agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:04 PM.