

Following our last meeting, I spoke with Debra Prots, Williams County Board of Elections Clerk on June 13, 2011. She was very helpful in providing information on estimated costs for townships to put the electric aggregate issue on the November ballot.

She said that the costs to add an issue to the ballot can increase or decrease as a result of many variables, such as: the actual number of issues on the ballot, the number of voters in the township, and the number of precincts in the township.

Debra did put together an estimate of the costs to put this issue on the November ballot for Center Township. Assuming that this was the only issue on the November ballot, the estimated cost would be \$1,605.78. If a second issue were added to the ballot, the cost could drop to around \$1,200. If a third issue were added to the ballot, the estimated cost could drop to \$1,000-\$1,100. Given the variables associated with each township, the cost to each township is hard to guesstimate.

Debra called me a couple of days later and told me that if an issue is put on the ballot in November of a general election year (an even year), the cost is lower for various reasons and also because there is no charge for poll workers. To put an issue on a Spring primary election ballot and the election is in March, the issue would need to be filed by December 7. If the election is in May, the issue would need to be filed sometime around February 5.

Then, on June 16, Tom Thompson, Williams County Prosecuting Attorney told me that townships that may want to participate in this opt-out electric aggregation this Fall need to pass a resolution 1-2 weeks before the first of July. Townships should contact Tom before July 1st for resolution and legal words necessary for the issue to be put on the ballot. Tom can be contacted via e-mail at www.williamscountyprosecutor.org.

On June 20, Al Word, County Commissioner forwarded me a letter from Palmer Energy (see attached). As noted in the Palmer Energy letter, each township will be splitting the Toledo Edison \$50.00 per meter rebate with the county. Al and I thought it would be best to wait and put this issue on the 2012 Spring ballot as time is running out for the Fall ballot. And, being an even year, the cost would be lower for us. For more information, contact Al Word. Al will also be at the WCTA August 18 potluck meeting at the Alvordton Community Building at 6:30 p.m. Come hungry!

Jeff Burkholder, President
Williams County Township Association