

Minutes

Talbot County Board of Elections
215 Bay Street
Easton, MD 21601
June 13, 2018

Present:

Board

Joseph H. Secrist, President	(R)
Richard B. Bulman	(R)
Susan MacKinnon	(D)
Wadella Thomas	(R)
Walter W. Black	(D)

Staff

Jeri Cook, Election Director

Public

Walt Johnson

The monthly meeting of the Talbot County Board of Elections was held on June 13, 2018 in Conference Room # Two at the Board office indicated above. Mr. Secrist called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Mr. Secrist noted that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes of May 16, 2018

Mr. Secrist asked if the Board had any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meeting of March 27, 2018, a copy of which had been forwarded to the Board Members in advance of the meeting. Upon motion duly made (Mr. Black) and seconded (Ms. Thomas), the minutes for May 16, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously.

Addition/Changes to the Agenda

Mr. Secrist asked that the following items be added to the agenda:

- Review of Canvass
- Star Democrat Election Reporting
- Executive Session

Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda with these additions was made (Mr. Black) and seconded (Mr. Bulman) and approved unanimously.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Election Director's Report

Ms. Cook reported on the following topics:

- Two Techs are on board.
- Teresa went to Scott United Methodist Church for voter Outreach. No new registrations were obtained.
- During this critical time, all staff may be called away from the office. Ms. Cook asked the board members if they would be interested in covering the office when this occurs.
- Valarie Ervin has withdrawn from the Governor's race.
- Polling Place Evaluation Forms have been changed. She specifically noted the section regarding same day registration.
- Logic and Analysis Testing is complete.
- Ms. Cook noted the training evaluation report prepared by Cortnee Bryant provided to the board and pointed out the need for a video projector or television to assist in the presentations.

Ms. Cook noted a special situation has developed at the Bozman United Methodist Church – the Bozman polling place. She learned today that the church has agreed to permit a bridal shower on the Saturday prior to Election Day in the building. This will require that voting equipment be removed for the building and stored in the moving van and then reinstalled for Election Day. The church was aware that the voting area must be available prior to Election Day and must be secure. The immediate solution to this security issue is the removal of the equipment, but the general quality of the location and the lack of concern by the church for security must be addressed. Ms. MacKinnon asked that the topic of voting places be discussed at all future meetings until matters such as this are resolved. Discussion ensued regarding an alternate polling location for Bozman. Ms. Cook agreed to discuss the possibility of changing the location for the General Election with the State Board of Elections.

Ms. Cook provided a roster of assigned judges for Early Voting. Mr. Secrist noted that the assignments do not meet State Law requirements as to a balance by party. Ms. Cook noted that, due to various reasons, several judges are no longer available. She has only one stand by judge left in her pool of judges.

Board Attorney's Report

Mr. Cronan was not present to make a report.

Old Business

Review of Invoices

Board members reviewed the invoiced as presented. Ms. Cook responded to individual member's questions.

Budget FY2018

Expenditures through May 31, 2018 were presented to the board. Ms. Cook reported that during the Memorial Day Weekend air conditioning was turned off at the Talbot County warehouse. She reported that when she arrived after the weekend, she found paper stock was damp. She also expressed concern that the voting equipment need to be in a controlled environment and that the Election Board must make clear that our equipment is sensitive and requires a controlled environment. She believes that the ballots will be fine since they are in sealed boxes. She suggested that the board take action to inform the county that we require a controlled environment at all times for our equipment and paper stock.

A motion was made (Mr. Bulman) that a letter be sent to County Manager Andy Hollis advising him that the county is responsible for providing a controlled environment at all times for the equipment and supplies of the Election Board so as to prevent damage or loss and to avoid the incurrence of additional cost to the county. The motion was seconded (Mr. Black) and passed unanimously.

Budget FY2019

Ms. Cook provided the board with copies of the budget as approved by the county council.

Early Voting (i) Election Judges

Assignment of judges for Early Voting was previously provided to board members. During the Election Director's Report, there was extensive discussion regarding the assignments. No further action was taken at this point regarding assignment of judges.

Early Voting (ii) Polling Place Evaluations

Ms. Cook that we need to have at least two board members to complete evaluations of the Early Voting poll. Ms. MacKinnon volunteered to complete an evaluation on Saturday June 16, 2018 and Mr. Secrist volunteered to complete an evaluation on Thursday June 14, 2018.

Election Day (i) Polling Place Evaluations

After discussion, the consensus of the board was to complete evaluations of all 11 polling places. Due to size or special circumstances, some polling places will have more than one board member complete an evaluation.

Election Day (ii) Board Member Assignments

The following assignments were agreed to:

Mr. Secrist – Cordova, Bozman and Tilghman
Mr. Black – Wittman, Bozman and Easton Firehouse
Ms. MacKinnon – Community Center and Easton High School
Ms. Thomas – St. Michaels, Bozman and Royal Oak
Mr. Bulman – Oxford, Trappe and Easton Firehouse

County Bulletins

Board members were provided copies of recent County Bulletins

Customer Satisfaction Survey

Board members were provided copies of recently submitted Customer Satisfaction Surveys

New Business

There was no new business

Review of Canvass

Ms. Cook summarized the dates, times and purpose of the canvases. The first event is scheduled for June 26 at 2:00 p.m. this will be to complete the tally for Early Voting. At least one members from each party must be in attendance. The meetings will be at the warehouse.

Star Democrat Election Reporting

Mr. Secrist pointed out that the Star Democrat had published incorrect information about the times for Early Voting. The League of Women Voters publication as distributed by the Star Democrat had erroneously reported that write-ins would be permitted and the voters were erroneously advised that they could only vote for one candidates in some of the races that permit multiple candidate to be voted for. A correction was published by the newspaper on June 12, 2018 and he wrote a letter to the editor correcting the time for voting at early voting and on election day.

Confirmation of next meeting

Mr. Secrist noted that the date of the next meeting was incorrect in the published agenda. The correct date and time for the next board meeting is July 18, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.

Closed Session

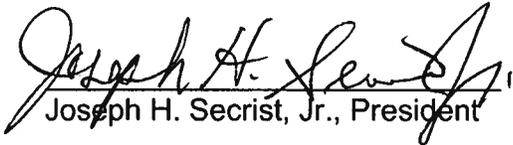
Ms. MacKinnon moved that the board go into closed session for the purpose of Performance Review of the Election Director. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. Where upon the board went into closed session at 11:15 a.m. At this point Ms. Cook and Mr. Johnson departed the meeting

At 11:40 a.m., the board returned to open session. Mr. Johnson returned to the meeting. President Secrist reported that the board deferred consideration of the Director's performance pending receipt of additional information.

Adjournment

Ms. MacKinnon moved adjournment of the meeting. Mr. Black seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Attested,



Joseph H. Secrist, Jr., President

Respectfully submitted,



Richard B. Bulman, Secretary