

Board Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2013

Attendees:

Board:

Susan MacKinnon, (D) Board President
Joseph Secrist, (R) Board Member
Walter Black, (D) Board Member
Mary-Beth Goll, (D) Substitute Member
Venita Southworth (R) Substitute Member

Staff:

Patti Mitchell, Election Director
Sabrina Fishell, Administrative Assistant

Public: None

Susan MacKinnon, Board President called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

MINUTES

The minutes of the February 13, 2013 meeting were reviewed. Ms. MacKinnon asked if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes. No corrections or changes were noted and Ms. Goll made a motion to accept the minutes and Mr. Black seconded the motion.

OLD BUSINESS

Canvass Minutes:

The canvass minutes that were originally presented to the board members at the January 9, 2013 meeting were passed around with the changes and corrections made by Ms. Mitchell. Ms. Southworth made a motion to accept the canvass minutes as corrected and Ms. Goll seconded the motion.

Budget 2013 - 2014:

Ms. Mitchell gave each board member a copy of the 2013-2014 budget that she submitted to Angela Lane. She said that she has not received a date that she will be meeting with the County Council about the budget. She stated that she was informed by Parker Durham of the Talbot County IT Department that we will be getting the 3 new work stations that she had requested. Ms. Mitchell stated that Mr. Durham will order the work stations once the budget is approved. She also stated that the County will be able to work on the work stations because they will be owned by the County. Ms. Mitchell informed the board members that if any changes are made to the budget, they will be receiving another copy with the changes that are made. She stated that she did not anticipate any cuts to the budget from the County.

Mr. Secrist stated he had some questions about the budget. He inquired about the \$ 5,000 that was under part time salaries. Ms. Mitchell stated the \$ 5,000 was to pay the board members for the canvas and also to pay someone that was hired to work in the election office during an election. He asked about the amount budgeted for the election judges, which Ms. Mitchell stated was \$ 40,000.00. He then questioned where he could locate the budgeted amount for Cirdan. Ms. Mitchell explained to the board

members that the State Board of Elections has hired full time State employees to take the place of Cirdan.

Ms. Southworth asked where to find the salaries of the substitute board members. Ms. Mitchell explained where to find this on the budget. Mr. Secrist then asked if the substitute board members were paid for Election Day. Ms. Mitchell explained that the substitute board members are paid \$ 100.00 for each meeting they attend. She further stated that they are not paid for Election Day, but they receive \$ 500.00 for the Canvas. Ms. Mitchell also stated that the board members are only required to be on call on Election Day. Mr. Secrist asked if the substitute board members could be paid on Election Day, like an election judge. Ms. Mitchell said she did not think they could, but stated they would be paid mileage. Ms. Goll stated that the solution to this problem would be to have a 5 member board.

Mr. Secrist questioned the salary amount of the board members; he stated he does not get paid \$ 3,500.00 per year. He states he receives \$ 250.00 per month, which comes to \$ 3,000.00 per year. Ms. Mitchell said she will check with the County about Mr. Secrist's salary and report back to him.

Ms. Mitchell suggested that the board members write letters to Senator Richard Colburn and Delegates Addie Eckardt and Jeannie Haddaway requesting a 5 member board. Ms. Mitchell stated that she will ask Wicomico & Caroline County to send her a copy of the letter that they presented requesting additional **permanent** board members. She also stated that she will check with other counties about the compensation of their board members. Ms. McKinnon suggested putting this on as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Ms. Mitchell informed the board members that she was reducing Sandy Evans hours from full time to part time. She stated that the County was currently checking to see if there was another department that could use Ms. Evans' services. Ms. Mitchell stated that she was going to reclassify Sabrina's position. She does not feel that this office needs 3 people in an off election year. Ms. Mitchell said the County has said they will give her a part time office person during an election year. She also informed the board members that she has requested to have a part time County technician during the election year. She stated that we don't need to have a County technician making \$ 25.00 an hour for 40 hours each week.

Ms. Mitchell informed the board that we met with the new Regional Managers from the State Board of Elections. Mr. Secrist asked about the role of the Regional Managers. Ms. Mitchell stated that we will be learning their role as we go along. She stated that our Regional Manager will be in our office 1 day a week.

Ms. MacKinnon questioned the budget with the increase of days and hours for Early Voting. Ms. Mitchell stated that Early Voting in 2014 will be from Thursday to Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., a total of 8 days for the Primary Election. She stated that the General Election hours will be 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. She stated that Linda Lamone and Ross Goldstein will be preparing a letter to the Counties about possible budget issues with the increase of Early Voting days and hours. There was a general discussion about the different house bills about the long lines, additional Early Voting sites and same day registration.

A motion was made by Mr. Black to approve the budget that was submitted to the County and seconded by Ms. Southworth.

NEW BUSINESS

Polling Places: Ms. Mitchell stated that the election office had received calls about the article that Mr. Goll had written to the Star Democrat, in regards to using the schools for voting. Ms. Mitchell said she called the school board office about the school year calendar. She stated that she spoke with Gayle Secrist, who informed her that the school year calendar had been voted on. Ms. Mitchell stated that Ms. Secrist said that the issue she saw in regards to using the schools was the number of days in November that the schools are already closed. Ms. Secrist suggested that the election board draft a letter to Dr. Karen Salmon, Superintendent of Talbot County School about utilizing the schools for Election Day. She suggested that the letter include the dates the election office would like to use the schools. Ms. Mitchell said that in the past the elections were held at the schools. It was a general consensus among the board members that using the schools would be beneficial to everyone. The space, the parking, handicap accessibility, the cost savings, and student involvement were discussed as huge benefits. Ms. Mitchell stated that every election district has a school in it. Ms. MacKinnon questioned using the schools for Early Voting, which was discussed and decided that it was impractical to do so. Ms. Mitchell stated that we are requesting to use the schools for Election Day only, not Early Voting. Ms. Mitchell informed the board that she has again requested to use the Easton Fire House for Early Voting. She is awaiting a response. Ms. MacKinnon inquired if we should send a copy of the letter that is drafted to Dr. Salmon to other interested parties. It was decided to copy each school board member and the Talbot County Council. Mr. Secrist suggested copying State Senator Richard Colburn and Delegates Addie

Eckardt and Jeannie Haddaway and Linda Lamone of the State Board of Elections.

Ms. MacKinnon informed the board that she would be away for the April 10th meeting. It was decided to change the meeting to Wednesday, April 24th at 9:30 a.m., so that all board members could be present to discuss the letter that will be drafted to Dr. Salmon about using the schools for Election Day. A motion was made by Mr. Black and seconded by Mr. Secrist to change the April board meeting to Wednesday, April 24th at 9:30 a.m.

MAEO Conference: Ms. Mitchell and Ms. Fishell will leave on Sunday, June 16th and will return on Wednesday, June 19th. Everyone is required to attend on Monday, June 17th. Ms. Mitchell stated on Tuesday, June 18th, classes will be offered that she and Ms. Fishell have to attend. There was a discussion among the board members about going Monday or Tuesday. Mr. Black, Ms. Southworth, Ms. MacKinnon and Ms. Goll voted to attend on Monday. Mr. Secrist refrained from voting as he wanted more information on what was offered on Tuesday. Ms. Mitchell told him she would find out and will let him know.

General Discussion:

Ms. Goll announced that the League of Women's Voters will be having a meeting on March 25th at the Talbot County Library from 6 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. She invited everyone to attend.

Ms. Mitchell reminded everyone that the ethics forms are due by the end of April.

Polling Place Evaluations: Mr. Secrist requested the board review the polling place evaluations. He stated that the evaluations had been talked about, but not reviewed. Ms. Mitchell stated that she will pull the polling place evaluations and present them at the April meeting.

Adjournment: Mr. Black made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Ms. Southworth. The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Next Meeting: April 24, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.

DO NOT COPY