

**Talbot County Election Board Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2014**

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

Public: None

Ms. MacKinnon called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Minutes were reviewed. Correction on p.3 under Adjournment: the word "stopped" replaced "adjourned." Mr. Black moved, and Ms. Southworth seconded that the minutes be approved with the correction. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Polling Places: Ms. Mitchell will attend the Board of Education meeting, January 15 at 7 p.m. at Easton High School. They will vote on using Easton and St. Michaels High Schools as polling places in 2014. Other election board members may also attend this meeting. The school board is awaiting a letter of approval from the State School Superintendent.

5-Member Election Board: Ms. Susan Moran from the County Council's Office was to have written a letter of support that needed Council's signatures. The next step is for the Election Office to write to Delegates Addie Eckhardt and Jeannie Haddaway and Senator Richard Colburn. Ms Mitchell will write the letter and send it to our board members for approval. Ms. MacKinnon suggested that the Council's letter be attached to Ms. Mitchell's letter to be sent to the state representatives for legislative.

Election Judges: Ms. Mitchell is still getting a few letters back; the office is placing judges at polling places. The Easton fire house with the largest number of voters is completed. Tilghman and Bozman will have 4 instead of 6 judges. Mr. Secrist asked if unaffiliated judges can serve if fewer than 6 judges are assigned. Ms. Mitchell will check on this. Ten more judges may be needed.

Office Move: Ms. Mitchell and Ms. MacKinnon met with John Craig last week to discuss possible places for the Election Board office to move, now that the current building has been sold. Finding a new site is on-going. Ms. Mitchell emphasized that the office must conform to state Election Board standards, and she also wants the new site to house the voting machines as it does now. Her office will need a locked door, and storage for machines must have receptacles for outlets and climate control.

Ms. Mitchell has explored possible sites and discussed their pros and cons with the board today. She noted that this upcoming move will be the 6th time the county has moved the Election Office since 2000. An unlikely possibility is for the county to lease the current site

from the buyer for 2014. Mr. Black stated that the county needs to make a decision that the voting process is going to be a high priority. The board agreed ; Ms. MacKinnon asked Mr. Black to write a letter to John Craig and the County Council expressing our concerns.

New Business: Four candidates have filed for the 2014 primary election. Deadline is February 25; Election Day, June 24.

At 10:45 a.m. the board voted to go into executive session. Ms. Goll moved and Mr. Black seconded to adjourn the open meeting; Ms. Southworth moved and Mr. Black seconded to go into executive session. Motions passed.

The minutes of the December 11 executive session were reviewed and revised. Mr. Black moved that the minutes be approved with corrections. Ms. Southworth seconded. The motion was approved by the 3 voting members, Mr. Black, Ms. MacKinnon, and Mr. Secrist. The executive session ended at 11:01.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary-Beth Goll