

Talbot County Board of Election Meeting, February 12, 2014

Attendees:

Board: Susan MacKinnon, (D) Board President

Walter Black (D)

Joseph Secrist (R)

Mary-Beth Goll (D) Substitute Member

Venita Southworth (R) Substitute Member

Staff: Patti Mitchell, Executive Director

Public: None

Ms. MacKinnon called the meeting to order 9:37 A.M. The minutes were reviewed and approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Polling Places: At their January 15 meeting, the Talbot County of Board of Education approved our Board's request to move 2 polling Places, 1-2, to Easton High School and 2-1 to St. Michaels High School. Schools will be closed to students on November 4. Ms. Mitchell received letters from Acting Superintendent Ms. Kelly Griffith and her assistant Mrs. Gayle Secrist. Ms. Mitchell has submitted paperwork to reserve the two high schools on election days. Easton High School Building Manager Kevin Shaefer has requested that the polling place be set up in the cafeteria instead of the auditorium. Ms. Mitchell also feels the cafeteria is a better choice.

5-Member Election Board: Letters were sent to Senator Richard Colburn by Ms. Mitchell and by Talbot County Council President Corey Pack to Delegates Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio and Adelaide Eckardt, and Senator Colburn requesting support for changing the present 3-member Talbot County Board of Elections with 2 substitute members, to a full 5-member voting board. On January 31, 2014, Senator Colburn introduced Senate Bill 918 in the Maryland Senate, which, if passed, would make the change June 1, 2015.

Election Judges: Nine people have declined to serve as judges and vacancies exist for several precincts. By the end of the month, if openings for the primary still exist, Ms. Mitchell will call the two central committees. One suggestion: pay judges \$25 to be on standby on election days. (They would get full compensation if used)

Office Move: The County has selected 215 Bay St. behind the townhouses as the new location of the Talbot County Board of Elections since the current space has been sold. This will be the 6th time Ms. Mitchell's office has been moved. Members discussed details of the move, and expressed concern about signage for the new location. It is not as convenient as 142 N. Harrison St. and will need to be well-marked and advertised. The County will provide signs and notifications. Voting machines, a T-1 line and firewall, and new furniture will be provided by the County.

Moving Day is March 15, 2014.

NEW BUSINESS: Candidate filings: are currently picking up. The primary deadline is February 25 at 9 p.m. No one has yet filed for either central party's positions (8 Democrat, 9 Republican). If 3 or more candidates file for a school board district, a (non-partisan) primary would be held for that district. The filing deadline will be announced in the newspapers.

Budget: Ms. Mitchell will basically re-submit the 2014 budget figures for FY 2015. The June 24 primary election is in FY2014 and the November 4 general election is in FY2015. Two increases are for the new telephone line T-1 from the state and a separate mailing announcing the move (\$6,900 cost;\$2,600 postage).

The state will be announcing a position at the Talbot County Board of Elections for a Data Application Specialist; the notice will run for 2 weeks on line. Finalists' names for the position will then be sent to Ms. Mitchell. She hopes to fill this post before the June primary.

MAEO Conference: March 25-28 in Ocean City, MD. Ms. MacKinnon, Ms. Southworth, Mr. Black, and Mr. Secrist are interested in attending one or two days. Ms. Mitchell will forward them the agenda for the conference. Ms. Sabrina Fishell and/or Ms. Mitchell plan to attend.

St. Michaels has requested use of county voting machines for an election May 5. Ms. Mitchell recommends that they use paper ballots with a ballot box. Other small towns have used paper ballots which are more cost effective. Also, the election is too close to the state primary in June.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 12 at 9:30 A.M. at 215 Bay Street.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary-Beth Goll, Recorder