

Talbot County Board of Elections Meeting, March 12, 2014, 142 N. Harrison St., Easton, MD 21601

Attendees:

Board: Susan MacKinnon, (D) Board President

Joseph Secrist (R)

Mary-Beth Goll (D) Substitute Member

Venita Southworth (R) Substitute Member

Staff: Patti Mitchell, Executive Director

Public: None

Ms. MacKinnon opened the meeting at 9:36 a.m.

MINUTES: The February 12 minutes were approved with these corrections: Titles: Kelley Griffith is Interim Superintendent of Talbot County Schools; Gayle Secrist is Acting Director of Support Services. The meeting was adjourned was 11:00 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS

5-Member Election Board SB0918 has passed its second reading in the state Senate. Ms. Mitchell will keep us updated on the bill's progress. She noted that Cecil County also wants a 5-member board.

Election Judges: Ms. Mitchell is still filling slots for election judges; she needs 10 more from each party and will contact the central committees if needed. The board discussed election law for smaller precincts; Ms. Mitchell will check with the board's lawyer Stephanie Shipley regarding use of 5 judges. Training of judges will start in May. Ms. Mitchell plans to train on Tuesdays and Thursdays; daytime sessions 1-4 p.m.; evening sessions 5-8 p.m.

Office Move: is at a standstill since John Craig resigned as County Manager last month. Ms. Mitchell hopes to move ASAP; it is hard to operate out of boxes.

The board discussed the importance of good signage for the new Election Board location. Several large signs are crucial for the public since the new site at 215 Bay Street is behind townhouses and not visible from the street.

Budget: Ms. Mitchell reported that the only change in the budget was an increase of \$32,000 to cover new mandated equipment coming in December and salary increases.

MAEO March 25 -26: Ms. MacKinnon, Mr. Black and Mr. Secrist will attend the conference in Ocean City; Ms. Southworth may attend.

NEW BUSINESS:

Primary Election: Mr. Secrist asked about school board districts. Only District 4 with 3 candidates will be in the primary. There will be 5 ballot styles: One Democratic, one Republican for those not in District 4; one Democratic, one Republican and one Unaffiliated for those in District 4. School Board Districts 1, 3 and 7 have 1 or 2 candidates who will be on the ballot in November along with the top 2 candidates from District 4.

League of Women Voters' Guide: Ms. Goll announced that yesterday, March 11, invitations were sent out electronically to all candidates for the primary election in Maryland. Candidates may respond with information for the guide which will be online, and also printed for the Mid-Shore counties.

Other items: The State Board of Elections will send out announcements in April for a position in the Talbot Board of Elections office for a data entry specialist. Mr. Secrist requested that Ms. Mitchell check with Ms. Shipley if the board needs to vote on moving polling places to the two high schools. Discussion: the decision was probably inherent in the request to the school board, who approved the move. The meeting was adjourned at 10'42. Next meeting: April 9; place to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary-Beth Goll, Recorder.