

## Talbot County Board of Elections Meeting, April 9, 2014, 142 N. Harrison St., Easton, MD 21601

### Attendees:

**Board:** Susan McKinnon, (D) President

Joseph Secrist (R)

Walter Black (D))

Mary-Beth Goll, (D) Substitute Member

**Staff:** Patti Mitchell, Executive Director

**Public:** None

Ms. McKinnon opened the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

**Minutes:** The March 12 minutes were approved.

**High School Polling Places:** Ms. McKinnon asked Mr. Secrist if he wanted to make a motion about the change of two polling places which the Talbot County Board of Education approved in February. Mr. Secrist moved and Mr. Black seconded a motion to move District 1-2 from the armory to Easton High School and District 2-1 from the St. Michaels library to St. Michaels High School. Motion passed.

**School Board districts:** Ms. Mitchell explained that the 2010 census blocks were used to determine the school board districts; two clerical errors had been corrected. The board discussed street listings. Ms. McKinnon noted that the Election Board's role is to direct any questions about school board districts to the Election office. Ms. Mitchell said a list of streets in each district is available to candidates on request.

**Old Business: 5-Member Election Board:** Senate Bill 0918 was passed by the Maryland Legislature and was signed into law by Governor Martin O'Malley on April 8, 2014. The law will take effect July 2015. Queen Anne's and Cecil counties were also included in the bill.

**Election Judges:** Ms. Mitchell distributed schedules of judges' training and lists of judges for precincts. She is still filling some vacancies. Ms. Mitchell pointed out that personality has to be a factor in choosing judges who are serving the public in the election process. Training sessions for judges will be held at the election office in May on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5p.m.- 8 p.m. Ms. Mitchell has hired a trainer from the state board of elections; she observed this trainer in Dorchester County who gave "just the right amount of information" to the judges.

**Early voting judges** may choose from 3 shifts: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; 3 p.m.-9 p.m. or all day 9 a.m.- 9 p.m.

Early voting will be held at Easton Fire House and goes from June 12 –June 19. The primary election will be June 24. Pay for early voting judges is \$15.00 per hour; \$17.50 for provisional and chief judges. The board discussed the role of board members at the polls; basically, one of silent observation without much talking. Ms. Mitchell may ask the League of Women Voters to provide observers.

**Office Move:** is on hold. Board attorney Stephanie Shipley contacted the county and Maryland State Board of Elections. Nikki Charlson from MSBE informed the county that it was NOT feasible to move the Talbot County Board of Elections before the June 24 primary. Attorney Shipley also requested that the

move be delayed until after the November general election; she is waiting for a response. The county will pay for the office move.

**Budget:** Ms. Mitchell assumes it wasn't cut; hearings are going on now.

**MAEO Conference in Ocean City, March 25,26 :** Six people represented Talbot County. Ms. Mitchell expressed disappointment that unprofessional comments had been made to others about our election office. In other respects, the conference was well-organized with a focus towards the new voting machines to be used in 2016.

**New Business: Board Attorney:** The board discussed advantages of having an attorney present at our monthly meetings. Legal questions come up that we don't know how to answer. Mr. Black moved and \_\_\_\_\_ seconded that we ask our attorney to attend all of our election board meetings. Motion passed, 3-0.

Ms. Mitchell noted that the Legislature passed a law that Voter Authority Cards (VAC) be kept longer than the previous 22 month requirement.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Next meeting: May 14 at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryk-Beth Goll, Recorder