

Talbot County Board of Elections Meeting, May 21, 2014, 132 N. Harrison St., Easton, MD 21601

Attendees:

Board: Susan McKinnon, (D), President

Joseph Secrist, (R)

Walter Black, (D)

Venita Southworth, (R)

Mary-Beth Goll, (D)

Staff: Patti Mitchell, Executive Director

Public: None

Ms. McKinnon opened the meeting at 9:34

Minutes: were read and approved with these corrections: Mr. Secrist seconded the motion re: the board attorney and typo fixed in Mary Beth Goll's name.

Judges' Training: Ms. Mitchell reported that Judges training started last week with a large class. The new IT specialist, Jim Buttes is helping with poll book training. Next week's sessions are May 27, 5-8 p.m.; May 28 and May 29, 1-4 p.m. Judges may drop in at early voting to get extra practice.

Ms. Mitchell needs to find several experienced chief judges for the primary. The state ethics board has directed that family members are not to be hired as election workers. She asked the board for approval of hiring several judges from other counties. Mr. Black moved and Ms. Southworth seconded that Ms. Mitchell be allowed to hire judges from out of Talbot County. Motion passed 3-0.

Ms. McKinnon stated that our responsibility as election board members is to direct questions from the public about the election to Ms. Mitchell.

Mr. Secrist raised a question about removing one of the current judges from the primary election. After discussion, Mr. Black moved and Ms. Southworth seconded a motion that we refer this discussion regarding election law concerning approval and appointment of judges to the board's attorney. Motion passed, 2-1.

Ms. Mitchell said Assistant County Manager Jessica Morris received a letter from the state Board of Elections informing the county that the Talbot election board could not be relocated until December 2014.

Budget: The state is posting a job opening on May 27 for an administrative assistant for the election board. Salary is \$27,977 unless the person hired is already working for the state and could choose to stay at current salary level.

NEW BUSINESS: The board asked Ms. Mitchell about Early Voting; she would like for us to be on call from June 12- June 19. Early voting will take place at the Easton fire house—one location. For the General Election, each precinct will set up its own voting equipment which will be delivered by truck,

June 20. Ms. Mitchell will personally deliver the poll books to each polling place. Communication on Election Day will be by cell phone.

Ms. Mitchell reminded board members that they are not to talk with election judges during the election. Cards for those with new polling places at the 2 high schools will go out next week. Sample ballots will be sent 10 days before early voting and a press release will be sent soon to the Star Democrat.

Ms. Goll announced there will be a print version of the League of Women Voters Guide for a 5-county area: Kent, Queen Anne's, Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot. It will be inserted in local papers and available at public libraries, election boards, etc.

Ms. Mitchell announced that 140 letters and voters cards were sent to students who have registered to vote. Not all of the students will be 18 by November 4. If underage students really want to vote, they will not be in the poll book; judges have been instructed to give them a provisional ballot.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Next meeting: June 11, 9:30 a.m. at 142 N. Harrison St.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary-Beth Goll, recorder