

Talbot County Board of Elections Meeting, July 7, 2014, 142 N. Harrison St., Easton, MD

Attendees:

Board Members: Susan McKinnon, (D) President

Walter Black (D)

Joe Secrist (R)

Mary-Beth Goll, (D) Substitute Member

Venita Southworth (R) Substitute Member

Staff: Patti Mitchell, Election Director

Public: None

Ms. McKinnon opened the meeting at 10:25 .a.m. The Minutes were approved as read.

Old Business: Primary Election: The Board discussed Early Voting at the Easton Firehouse. Some voters didn't follow the signs. The Fire Department would like limits on the signs for each candidate. Each person on the ballot is supposed to remove his/her signs. The Fire Department felt some signs were a liability. For the 2016 election a new site may be needed. Ms. Mitchell felt Early Voting went well. In the 2014 primary election, 10% of Talbot's registered voters participated in Early Voting. In 2010, it was 6 %.

The Board discussed the list of election judges. Ms. Mitchell worked to get a balance of the parties at each site. She also had a list of substitutes, though some did not want to travel to more distant precincts. Ms. Goll moved and Mr. Black seconded that the Board approve the list of judges for the General Election in the fall. Motion passed: 2-1.

Mr. Secrist questioned putting municipal election places on the voter's cards. (Some voters were confused between municipal and precinct voting sites). Ms. Mitchell explained that universal registration rules require this. Voters also have an obligation to keep their address current with the election office.

New Business: Staff Vacations: Ms. Mitchell will have foot surgery scheduled soon; Ms. Fishell will be away at the end of August. Technician Jim Butts' last day for the primary election is today, July 7; he will return in the fall to work on the General Election.

Ms. Mitchell noted that two candidates, Maureen Scott--Taylor and Josh Horner, whose names were on the ballot have not officially notified the election office of their withdrawal. They have until July 11 to get their names removed from the ballot.

Mr. Black commended Ms. Mitchell, the staff and election judges for the smooth primary election in Talbot County.

Next Meeting: August 13, 2014 at 9:30 p.m. The Board will look over surveys of the polling places that were sent to the state.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary-Beth Goll, recorder

