

## **Board of Elections of Talbot County, Meeting November 12, 2014, 142 N. Harrison St., Easton, MD**

**Attending:** Board Members: Susan MacKinnon (D), President; Walter Black (D), Joe Secrist, R, Mary-Beth Goll (D), substitute; Venita Southworth, R, substitute; Election Director, Patti Mitchell; Public: Charlotte Covington and Nancy Howeth; election judges from Tilghman

Ms. MacKinnon opened the meeting at 9:03 a.m. Ms. Covington and Ms. Howeth commented on their Election Day experiences at Tilghman firehouse. One of their machines broke down and they set up chairs and passed out numbered tickets for voters who were waiting. Mr. Butts was able to bring them a replacement voting machine but it took a while. The board complimented them on their common sense handling of the machine problem.

They suggested getting all the precincts' chief judges together after the election to discuss solutions to problems that may have occurred.

**Minutes of the October 8, 2014 meeting:** were approved with these corrections: Under Student Registrations, add Ms. Southworth after Ms. MacKinnon, and they before will go on Thursday....

**OLD BUSINESS: General Election:** Ms. Mitchell said voting at Easton Firehouse went smoothly; many of the judges also had worked at early voting. Most precincts functioned well. She has concerns with Trappe and St. Michaels. Several judges did not show up at St. Michaels which left them with long lines and fewer people moving the line to the machines. No tech showed up at Trappe, so Ms. Mitchell sent them the tech person from the Community Center. Mr. Butts went wherever needed.

Ms. Mitchell assigned Danny Mautz, brother of candidate John, to work the election board's office, answering phone calls and running errands. There had been some Election Day.

The Board discussed complaints Ms. Mitchell received during the election. Mr. Black suggested that the political parties should back the election board. Judges need to be reminded that when they are at the polls, their role is **non-partisan**. Incumbent County Council candidates Corey Pack and Laura Price did not follow the electioneering rules. Mr. Pack was inside the St. Michaels polling place although he had voted previously, and Ms. Price took a "selfie" of her voting at the machine during early voting and posted it on Facebook. Cell phones must be turned off in the polls. Mr. Black suggested that the board check the election laws on their actions. Ms. Southworth suggested that when a candidate files for office, he/she should receive a letter clearly stating rules.

The meeting was interrupted at 10 a.m. to follow the state's canvassing schedule for provisional ballots. The meeting was resumed at 12:05 p.m. after canvassing was completed.

**Election Judges:** Ms. Mitchell explained that Caroline County has 8 polling places; they had each precinct's judges work one day at Early Voting as a team. Judges also need to understand the state's distribution of pollbooks and voting machines in relation to a precinct's population.

**Voter Turnout:** Ms. Mitchell announced that Talbot County has 19% for Early Voting and 57% total, which could change after the final canvass. Talbot had one of the highest turnouts in Maryland.

**Verify Your Vote flyer:** A stack of these flyers was left inside the polling place at Royal Oak; they should not have been there. Ms. Mitchell sent a copy to Chris Rosenthal at the State Election Board.

**By-laws:** will be examined by the new board attorney.

**NEW BUSINESS: Board Attorney:** Attorney Philip Cronin is interested in the position.

Next meeting: December 10, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary-Beth Goll