

## **Board of Elections of Talbot County Meeting February 11, 2015 141 N. Harrison St., Easton, MD**

**Attending: Board Members:** Susan Mackinnon (D), president; Walter Black( D), Joe Secrist (R); Venita Southworth, (R ) substitute Member; Mary-Beth Goll (D), substitute member; **Election Director:** Patti Mitchell; **Guest:** Michelle Holland, Maryland State Board of Elections

Minutes were approved with this correction: Under Old Business, General Election, sentence 5, two, not three judges did not show up.

**OLD BUSINESS: General Election:** Ms. Mitchell reported that polling place surveys were turned in to the state. SBE official Rick Erps said only 1 question was not answered. Ms. Mitchell will hold a “Lessons Learned” meeting with chief and provisional judges on March 12 from 10:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m. February 24 and 26 will had Hands-on training protocols on the new voting machines. Ms Mitchell also noted that the staff has followed 3 audits of precincts done the day after the election.

**Letter to Council Woman Laura Price:** A draft of the letter regarding the “selfie photo” that Ms. Price took at her voting machine on Election Day. Ms. Mitchell will look up the rule and e-mail it to the board. Use of cell phones by candidates and voters will be addressed before the next election.

**Board Attorney:** Mr. Philip Cronin was unable to be interviewed by the board today. Ms. Mitchell will try to schedule a meeting with him and the board on February 23 or February 25. Ms. Mitchell will e-mail board members the time Mr. Cronin can meet. We will also look at the by-laws at that time.

**Letter to Board of Education requesting use of the high schools in 2016:** Ms. Mitchell heard from the Board of Education that our request to use the schools has been approved.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Teresa Goode has been hired as the new Data Application Specialist and started work on January 21, 2015. Ms. MzcKinnon requested the State board of elections to explain the protocol for signing timesheets of local election board staff. Michelle Holland explained that Some boards assign a timekeeper who signs the time sheets. Teresa Goode was a timekeeper in her previous position in Annapolis. Ms. Goll moved and Ms. Southworth seconded that Ms. Goode sign Ms. Mitchell’s timesheets and that Ms. Mitchell sign her staff’s timesheets. Motion passed, 3 -0.

**New Voting Machines:** Ms. Mitchell and Ms. Holland described the new voting machines that will be used in the 2016 election. Early voting procedures will differ a bit from those on Election Day, but both will produce a paper ballot. Ballots will be stored for 36 months after the election. Board members asked many questions about the new machines. .

**Talbot County website:** Mr. Secrist asked if the Board of Elections could be put on the home page of the county’s website. Starting In June 2015, the 5 voting members of the new election board will each receive an annual salary of \$3080 a year. This will include payment for the election canvasses.

**Moving Office:** Ms. Mirchell announced that the election board’s office will be moving to Bay Street in March.

**Next regular meeting, March 11, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. Location to be announced.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

--Mary-Beth Goll, recorder

