

## **Board of Elections of Talbot County, April 8, 2015 Meeting, 215 Bay St., Easton. MD**

**Attending: Board Members:** Susan MacKinnon (D), President; Walter Black (D); Joe Secrist (R); Mary-Beth Goll (D), substitute member; Venita Southworth; (R), substitute member; **Election Director,** Patti Mitchell; **Guest:** Richard Bulman; **On Speaker Phone:** Attorney Philip Cronan

The minutes of the March 11, 2015 meeting were approved with these corrections: Under Board Attorney, add "meeting materials." to the end of the last sentence in that section. Under MAEO Conference, in 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence, change date to June 1.

**OLD BUSINESS: General Election:** Polling Place surveys seemed to be OK. On Election Day Mr. Secrist noticed a pothole in front of the Tilghman Fire Department. Ms. Mitchell will ask the chief judges to look at their polling places before the next election. Canvass minutes were sent to the state board.

Lessons Learned meeting with chief and provisional judges was held March 25. Ms. Mitchell said all but one attended. They discussed the past election and saw the new voting system. The judges will go over their lists to make recommendations for the 2016 election. With the new system, judges will attend 3 training sessions. She said the meeting went very well.

For Early Voting, each polling place's staff will take one day (all day). This will enable each group to work as a team and get accustomed to paper ballots. During Early Voting, everyone will use a touch-screen machine that will have "skinny" paper ballots. On Election Day, 8' x14' paper ballots will be filled out by voters and then scanned into one voting machine.

Ms. Mitchell stated that her office will have public demonstrations of the new voting machines at the Election Board. (Machines are not easily transportable). She noted that one of the most effective ways to have a smooth election with new machines is to "get election officials well-trained and on board."

**Budget:** The canvass figures for the 2015-2016 budget were adjusted, as moved in the March board's last meeting. Some election expenses are not yet known.

**Early Voting Site:** The Easton fire house may not be available for early voting. Other possible sites were discussed; however, the fire house appears to be most centrally located.

**Board Attorney:** Mr. Black moved and Mrs. Goll seconded that the Board accept Philip Cronan as its new attorney. Motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS: New Board:** Ms. Mitchell announced that the Governor's "green bag's" appointments to the Talbot County Board of Elections have been approved. The new Board: Returning members Ms. MacKinnon, Mr. Black and Mr. Secrist and new members, Mr. Richard Bulman (R)(and Mr. John Hall (R) will be sworn in after June 1

**MAEO Meeting,** June 9-12 at Ocean City: The new board is required to attend the Biennial Meeting on Wednesday, June 10. Agendas were passed out and some arrangements were discussed.

**Information Requests:** Ms. MacKinnon led a discussion on board members' requests to Ms. Mitchell for factual information that may or may not be relevant to the board's oversight. Mr. Black noted that as a matter of procedure when a board member presents an idea the board needs to work as a team. The board agreed that information a member requests should be added to the meeting's agenda, and the board can decide if it is relevant to the board's oversight or the election office's day-to-day operations.

**Friendly to the Public:** The board discussed making the new location of the Election Office at 215 Bay Street more welcoming to voters. The sign “Employees Only” is not conducive to good communication with the public. Generally, all visitors to the building report to a person behind a big open window in the hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

--Mary-Beth Goll, recorder