

Talbot County Board of Elections Meeting May 8, 2015, 215 Bay St., Suite 7, Easton, MD 21601

Attending: Board Members: Susan Mackinnon (D), President; Joe Secrist (R), Mary-Beth Goll (D) substitute member; Venita Southworth (R), substitute member; **Election Director:** Patti Mitchell; **Board Attorney:** Philip Cronan; **Guests:** Richard Bulman, John Hull.

The April 8, 2015 board minutes were approved with these corrections: Under Old Business, General Election, first paragraph. Substitute last sentence to read: The unapproved Canvass minutes were sent to the State Board; they will be e-mailed to Talbot board members for approval at the June meeting. In the third paragraph under General Election, change paper ballot size to 8" x 14".

OLD BUSINESS: General Election: Ms. Mitchell explained that Mayor Willey is looking into why the election board was told they might not use Easton Fire House for early voting in 2016.

Budget: The County left the canvass in the salary. Ms. Mitchell noted that Cindy Haddaway in Human Resources will straighten out the salary part. The State Board of Elections is still negotiating additional costs with the new voting system. Shelley Holland, SBE's finance officer, is communicating with the counties. Maryland counties are required to pay "reasonable and necessary" costs for the election.

By-laws will be sent out via e-mail to new board members before the June meeting.

Letter to County Council member regarding the "selfie" taken at the voting machine on last Election Day: After discussion, it was decided to send a letter to Ms. Laura Price as action of the current board. Mr. Black has the letter in his computer and Ms. Mitchell will include the reference to election law. The board noted that for candidates in the 2016 election, instructions about not taking photos at the polls will be included in their filing packets.,

MAEO Conference, June 9-12, 2015: All board members, Ms. Mitchell, Mr. Cronan and Ms. Teresa Goode will be attending. The Biennial conference on June 10 is mandatory. Board members' responsibilities and explanations of the new voting machines will be explained. Ms. Mitchell reminded members that final details will be discussed at the June 1 meeting. Ms. Mitchell stated that everyone needs to represent the Talbot County Board with respect for each other.

NEW BUSINESS: Best Practices and summary of outgoing board's work :

Achievements:

- Registering high school students in the schools before elections
- Evaluating the public schools as potential polling places
- Advocating to use the high schools as polling places at Board of Education meetings
- Communicating with the County Council, state senator and delegates to pass legislation to form a 5 voting member Election Board
- Visiting polling places during Early Voting and Election Days, helping with opening and closing polls

Best Practices:

- Working in unison as a cooperative non-partisan board
- Putting questions on the meeting's agenda and raising them at the local level first

- Setting an example on Election Day by not talking much to observers and judges
- Supporting the Election Director as a board

Swearing in June 1: Clerk of the Circuit Court Mary Ann Shortall will administer oaths of office at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, June 1. **A meeting of the board will follow.**

--Mary-Beth Goll, Recorder