

Minutes

Talbot County Board of Elections
215 Bay Street
Easton, MD 21601
February 21, 2017

Present:

Board

Joseph H. Secrist, President	(R)
Walter W. Black	(D)
Richard B. Bulman	(R)
Susan MacKinnon	(D)

Staff

Teresa Goode

State Board of Elections

Sylvia Brown, Director, Personnel Services Division
Desvin Gabbidon, Regional Manager, Field Support Division

Guests

Mary-beth Goll
Chris Koch (Arrived after start of meeting)

A meeting of the Talbot County Board of Elections was held on February 21, 2017 in Conference Room # 1 at the Board office indicated above. Mr. Secrist called the meeting to order at 9:30 p.m. Mr. Secrist noted that a quorum was present. Since Board Member and Secretary John Hall was absent, Mr. Secrist asked if any member of the board would volunteer to serve as Secretary. Mr. Bulman agreed to serve.

Approval of Minutes of February 7, 2017

Mr. Secrist asked if the Board had any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meeting of February 7, 2017, a copy of which had been forwarded to the Board Members in advance of the meeting. Upon motion duly made (Mr. Bulman) and seconded (Mr. Black), the minutes as presented were approved unanimously.

Addition/Changes to the Agenda

Mr. Secrist asked if there were any requests for changes to the agenda. None were offered. Upon motion duly made (Mr. Black) and seconded (Mr. Bulman), the agenda was approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Mr. Secrist asked if the members of the public present wished to make any comments. Ms. Goll noted that the board's web site does not include any minutes since the May 8, 2016 meeting. She asked that the missing minutes be posted in a timely manner. Mr. Secrist asked Ms. Goode to post those minutes which had been approved by the board since she has been serving as Acting Election Director. Ms. Goll also said that the agenda for this meeting was not posted on the web site. Mr. Bulman noted that the agenda was post with an erroneous date of February 7, 2017.

Ms. MacKinnon asked that the process for submitting minutes to the Board for review be discussed, as well as the fashion by which minutes and agenda are posted. Mr. Secrist suggested that this topic be carried over to the next meeting and be considered under old business.

Election Director's Report

Ms. Goode presented a letter Mr. Mike Feldman addressed to the board regarding a political sign which remains standing at 8132 Elliott Road. She inquired at the State Board as to the authority of the Local Board to address the question of time limits of political signs on private property. She was informed that board has no authority to address this matter. Mr. Secrist suggested we discuss this later in the meeting under new business.

The board also reviewed the Precinct Voter Counts Report and the Monthly Statistical Report. No comments were made.

Ms. Goode presented a report of actual voter count by precinct. Mr. Secrist had requested the report.

Attorney's Report

Mr. Cronin was not present at the meeting. However, Mr. Secrist reported that he has asked Mr. Cronan for an opinion regarding the board's ability to meet in an Administrative Sessions. He reported that Mr. Cronan concurred that such a session may be held, provided that such session is reported at the next public meeting of the Board.

Old Business

Review of Invoices

The invoices were presented to the board members. There were no questions for Ms. Goode regarding them.

Review Budget 2016/2017

The board reviewed the Expense Report year to date for the period through January 2017. No questions were raised.

Budget 2017/2018

The board's requested budget for 2017/2018 was discussed. Mr. Secrist reported that the county council will hear a report from the board regarding its budget request on either March 1 or March 2. Mr. Secrist Mr. Black will attend to address any questions.

Ms. Goode provided the board with material from the State Board regarding the allocation of expenses to the various counties for the upcoming year.

County Bulletins

The bulletins have been previously sent to the board members. The only issue raised was the reimbursement by Runbeck for errors on their part. The amount due Talbot is very small and no action will be taken to file for reimbursement.

Customer Satisfaction Survey

No surveys have been submitted since the last regular meeting of the board.

Status of Voting Equipment

All scanners have been cleared and are in satisfactory order. Work is underway regarding the poll books. About 50% of them are completed.

2017 MAEO Meeting

Ms. Goode provided the board with Conference Information regarding the meeting scheduled for June 6 – 9, 2017. Included was a schedule of events for the three days. The board will discuss at its March 2017 meeting who will be attending.

New Business

State Mandatory Meeting

This meeting will be a one day event in Annapolis on October 23, 2017. Details will be provided at a later date.

Letter from Mr. Feldman

Following discussion of the letter from Mr. Feldman, Mr. Black moved that the President respond to Mr. Feldman in a letter (after reviewing the letter with Mr. Cronan stating that the board has no jurisdiction regarding the issue he reported in his letter. Ms. MacKinnon seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

County Voting by Category

Mr. Secrist passed out a report which showed for several counties and for the entire state the number and percentage of voters who cast their ballot by Early Voting, Election Day, Absentee and Provisional. He noted that Early Voting and Absentee Voting in Talbot County was greater than 50%.

Public Comment (Continued)

Mr. Chris Koch asked to be heard by the board. He reported that he was unaware that the meeting, originally scheduled for 7:00 PM on February 15, 2017, had been moved. The notice of the meeting change was posted on the door to the Board Offices, but not visible to the public outside the building, so when he came on February 15, he found the building closed.

His purpose for addressing the board is to express his opposition to moving the polling places (both Early Voting and Election Day) to the old Black and Decker building. Board members thanked him for his comments and said they will be considered them when polling places are discussed for the next election cycle.

Closed Session

Upon motion duly made (Mr. Black) and seconded (Ms. MacKinnon), the Board entered into closed session at 10:04 a.m., for the purpose of discussing the selection of the Election Director.

The Board returned to open session at 10:38 a.m. Mr. Secrist announced that, during closed session, the Board had authorized Ms. Brown to proceed with the hiring of an Election Director.

Next Meeting

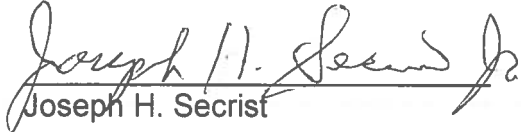
Mr. Secrist announced that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board would take place on March 15, 2017 beginning at 9:30 a.m.


Adjournment

Upon motion to adjourn by Ms. MacKinnon, seconded by Mr. Black, and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Attested,

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph H. Secrist


Richard Bulman, Interim Secretary

WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT

Date: 2/24/17 Time: 10:00 AM Location: 215 Bay Street, Easton, MD 21601

Motion to close meeting made by: W. Black Seconded by J. Mackinnon

Members voting in favor: Black, MacKinnon, Babson, Secrist

Opposed: None

Abstaining _____ Absent 1 Hall

STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO CLOSE SESSION, General Provisions Article, §3-305(b) (check all that apply):

- (1) To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter;
- (2) To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals concerning a matter not related to public business;
- (3) – (6) Omitted; not within the authority of a local election board;
- (7) To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter;
- (8) To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation;
- (9) through (11) Omitted; not within the authority of a local election board;
- (12) To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct;
- (13) To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter;

FOR EACH CITATION CHECKED ABOVE, THE REASONS FOR CLOSING AND TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:

§3-305(b) () Process selection of Election Director

§3-305(b) () _____

§3-305(b) () _____

This statement is made by Joseph H. Secrist, Presiding Officer: Joseph H. Secrist
Signature