

# Minutes

Talbot County Board of Elections  
215 Bay Street  
Easton, MD 21601  
*August 15, 2018*

Present:

## **Board**

Joseph H. Secrist, President (R)  
Walter Black (D)  
Richard B. Bulman (R)  
Wadella Thomas (R)

## **Staff**

Jeri Cook, Election Director

## **Board Attorney**

Philip Cronan

## **Public**

Walt Johnson

The monthly meeting of the Talbot County Board of Elections was held on August 15, 2018 in Conference Room # One at the Board office indicated above. Mr. Secrist called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Secrist noted that a quorum was present.

## **Approval of Minutes of July 18, 2018**

Mr. Secrist asked if the Board had any corrections or additions to the minutes of the open portion of the meeting of July 18, 2018, a copy of which had been forwarded to the Board Members in advance of the meeting. Mr. Bulman noted that the draft minutes he previously circulated had an error in seconder of the motion regarding Closed Session. He asked that the minutes reflect that Ms. Thomas seconded the motion rather than Mr. Black. With that correction, Mr. Black moved approval as amended of the minutes of the open portion of the July 18, 2018 meeting. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

## **Addition/Changes to the Agenda**

No additions to the agenda were offered

## **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Black moved approval of the agenda as presented. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

## **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

## **Election Director's Report**

Ms. Cook reported the following:

- The office will be closed on August 22 for staff to attend the MAEO meeting in Glen Burnie.
- Training for election judges for the General Election will begin on September 18.
- Ten additional judges have been identified for the General Election and hoping to get approximately twenty new judges. Training for them will begin on October 2.
- The Open House for judges worked well for the Primary Elections so Ms. Cook has scheduled an Open House for October 13.
- The Department of Homeland Security has scheduled a tabletop demonstration in Glen Burnie, Anne Arundel Board of Elections office. Ms. Cook, Mr. Gleockler and Ms. Butler will attend the meeting
- Our space at the Talbot County Business Center has a water leak that may cause damage to voting equipment. Ms. Cook is concerned that the county personnel are not sufficiently concerned about the consequences of damage to the equipment. Following discussion, Mr. Black moved the following:

The Board of Elections send a letter to President of the County Council and the County Manager regarding the water leak and the urgency of the need for necessary repairs to address the water leak. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. Ms. Cook asked that the letter note that the lease of the provides that the area be properly maintained to protect the investment in equipment and that, if it is damaged, the cost of repair or replacement will be a county expense. The motion passed unanimously.

- Ms. Cook then updated the board on the problem regarding the posting of political signs at St. Michael's School. During the Primary Election, the School Manager had removed candidate signs on school property legally placed outside the 100-foot no electioneering zone. Several candidates complained. However, the School Manager refused to comply with the terms of the use agreement and State law allowing the signs to be posted. Further discussion with Board of Education officials elicited remarks that the School Board will place additional staff at the school during the General Election to ensure that signs are not posted in areas they deem a safety concern.

Board Attorney Philip Cronan concurred that State law requires the School Board to permit signs to be posted on school property beyond the 100-foot no electioneering zone. Mr. Cronan offered to contact Doug Collinson, an attorney who works with the Talbot County Board of Education, to discuss the need for the school to comply with State law on this matter.

- Ms. Cook reported that a landline telephone has been installed in the warehouse at the Talbot County Business Center.

### **Board Attorney's Report**

Mr. Cronan had nothing additional to report.

### **Old Business**

#### **Budget FY2019**

Ms. Cook distributed copies of the expense report for the year through July 31, 2018.

#### **Review of Invoices**

Ms. Cook previously provided copies of invoices received since the last meeting and answered questions from Board Members.

#### **Budget FY2018**

Ms. Cook distributed copies of the expense report of the year end FY 2018 and responded to questions from Board Members.

#### **County Bulletins**

Ms. Cook previously provided copies of the County Bulletin for August 3 and responded to questions from Board Members.

#### **Polling Places**

In addition to the earlier discussion regarding issues at St. Michaels School, Ms. Cook reported that she has been meeting with School Board officials regarding the location for polls at Easton High School. Lighting and availability of electrical receptacles have not been adequate and she is considering the possibility of relocating the polls to the auditorium attached to the school, which is a county owned facility. She will have further discussions with the school. Ms. Cook suggested that in future elections we may want to look for another location for the polls in this district.

## Election Judges

In addition to the 10 new judges she has identified, Ms. Cook reported that about half the judges from the Primary Election have already signed up for training for the General Election. Several judges who were last minute cancellations in the Primary Election, have signed up for the General Election. As part of her report on judges, Ms. Cook noted that she had provided Hourly Turnout Reports from the Chief Judges. Mr. Secrist noted that this can be helpful with staffing and scheduling of judges at the polls in the future.

## Customer Satisfaction Survey

No surveys have been submitted since the last Board meeting.

## New Business

There were no items for discussion.

## Confirmation of Next Meeting

Mr. Secrist noted that the date of the next regular Board meeting is September 19, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. He also noted that the agenda for this meeting includes a Closed Session and, during that Closed Session, the board expects to recess the Board meeting and reconvene it on August 21, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. at the Frederick Douglas Room at the Talbot Public Library in Easton.

## Closed Session

Mr. Black moved that the board go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. At this point, Mr. Johnson departed the meeting. Where upon the board went into closed session at 8:15 p.m. During the closed session, the board recessed the meeting and reconvened at 10:00 a.m. on August 21, 2018.

At 11:03 a.m. on August 21, 2018, the board returned to open session in the Frederick Douglas Room at the Talbot County Library in Easton, Maryland. Present at that time were the following:

### **Board**

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

### **Staff**

Jeri Cook, Election Director

**Board Attorney**  
Philip Cronan

**State Board of Elections**  
Sylvia Brown, Director, Personnel Services Division; Christina Lohr,  
Personnel Officer

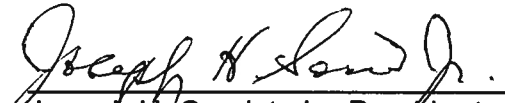
Mr. Secrist noted that a quorum was present.

Mr. Secrist reported that during the closed session the board received a report on a personnel matter from Ms. Cook, considered a personnel matter and approved the minutes of the closed session held on July 18, 2018.


**Adjournment**

Mr. Black moved adjournment of the meeting. Mr. Bulman seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Attested,

  
Joseph H. Secrist, Jr., President

Respectfully submitted,

  
Richard B. Bulman, Secretary