

Minutes

Talbot County Board of Elections
215 Bay Street
Easton, MD 21601
May 20, 2020

Present:

Board

Joseph Secrist, President	(R)
Walter Black	(D)
Susan MacKinnon	(D)
Richard Bulman	(R)
Wadella Thomas	(R)

Staff

Jeri Cook, Election Director

Board Attorney

Philip Cronan

Public

None

The monthly meeting of the Talbot County Board of Elections was held on May 20, 2020. Due to restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic, the meeting was held by videoconference. The public was invited to listen by conference call and advised via the Board website and on the agenda of the procedure to do so. Mr. Secrist called the meeting to order at 9:34 AM. Mr. Secrist noted that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Secrist asked if the Board had any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meeting of April 15, 2020, copies of which had been forwarded to the Board Members in advance of the meeting. Ms. MacKinnon moved to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Addition/Changes to the Agenda

Mr. Secrist asked if there were any additions to the agenda as included in the package as mailed to the Board Members. 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 on the following:

- Election judges for the vote center were selected from those judges who were already trained prior to the county closing the offices to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic and training had to stop. Canvassers were selected from Election Judges who were available and not being utilized for election day to protect everyone from the spread of the virus. The canvass will consist of 3 teams of 3 canvassers from each major party working on selected days. They will be paid \$250 each day they work. Canvass information has been posted on the web site.
- A professional videographer has been hired to manage the live streaming of the canvassing and interface with the videoconferencing of Board of Canvassers meeting.
- The Easton Post Office is taking measures to secure ballots in a locked area until picked up by Election Board staff.
- The board of the Easton Volunteer Fire Department has requested an additional \$500 for the use of the hall to cover the cost of disinfecting the hall after elections.
- Ms. Cook provided a detailed plan for conducting the canvass.
- We have received about 5,900 ballots to date and approximately 600 undeliverable ballots were returned.
- Public demonstration for Logic and Accuracy was performed remotely on May 19, 2020 at 9:00 am. The State Board suggests that local Board of Elections Members authorize the Election Director to sign the certification on their behalf.
- The verification of the supplies that are sent to the vote center will be conducted by the Election Director. The Election Director was not involved with the packing of the supplies. The State Board suggests the local Board Members authorize the Election Director sign the certification.
- Drop boxes will be under 24-hour camera surveillance. The Talbot County Sheriff's Office and Easton Police will place the two locations on their patrol. Ballots will be picked up 3 times each day.

Board Attorney's Report

Mr. Cronan reported on his participation in conference calls with the State officials and other local board attorneys. Regarding the need to wear a mask when voting in person, that matter has not been decided yet. Masks, gloves, sanitizers, and plexiglass shields will be available for the judges. Masks will be available for voters, if needed. Those who appear in person to vote will be allowed to do so and will be provided a ballot. Only a few voters at a time will be allowed in the polling place at a time to maintain social distancing and protect the election judges.

Mr. Black move to authorize the Election Director to sign the Logic and Accuracy report. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

The State Board requires that Local Boards have specific minimum amounts of supplies. The supplies being sent to the polling places must be verified prior to the election. This has been done in the past by the President and Vice President. The State Board recommends that, due to the restrictions imposed as a result of the pandemic, the Local Board authorize the Election Director sign the Supply Verification. Mr. Black moved to authorize the Election Director sign the Supply Verification form. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Ms. Cook offered to provide each Board Member with copies of the Logic and Accuracy report and the Supply Verification report.

Ms. Cook provided a list of 15 people who will serve as election judges on Election Day. Mr. Bulman moved to approve this appointment of these individuals. Mr. Black seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Ms. Cook reported earlier that, due to the pandemic, there is a need to sanitize the Easton Fire Hall after using it on election day. This is an unanticipated cost for the fire company and we were asked by the trustees to either perform the sanitizing ourselves or they would do it for an additional \$500. Following discussion, Ms. MacKinnon move to approve the additional payment to the fire company. Mr. Black seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

New Business

There were no items to discuss under New Business.

Confirmation of next meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board will be June 17, 2020 at 9:30 AM.

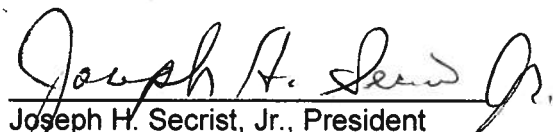
Closed Session

There were no items for discussion in Closed Session.

Adjournment

Mr. Black moved adjournment of the meeting. Ms. MacKinnon seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:12 AM.

Attested,


Joseph H. Secrist, Jr., President

Respectfully submitted,


Richard B. Bulman, Secretary