

# Minutes

Talbot County Board of Elections  
215 Bay Street  
Easton, MD 21601  
*June 17, 2020*

Present:

**Board**

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

Absent:

Richard Bulman	(R)
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**Staff**

Jeri Cook, Election Director

**Board Attorney**

Philip Cronan

**Public**

None

The monthly meeting of the Talbot County Board of Elections was held on June 17, 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 9:38 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 May 20, 2020, copies of which had been forwarded to the Board Members in advance of the meeting. Mr. Black 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. Ms. Thomas moved approval of the agenda as presented. Ms. MacKinnon seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **Election Director's Report**

Ms. Cook reported on the following:

- Beginning next week the staff will be teleworking per the governor's direction. There will be at least one person in the office to accommodate the public's needs. The county offices reopened to the public today, Wednesday, June 17, 2020.
- Staff will be taking much deserved time off during the next month or so before we begin ramping up for the general election.
- The board will meet as the board of canvassers at the July meeting to approve the minutes from the canvass which will be to you prior to the meeting and any vote by mail ballots will be presented at that time.
- Ms. Cook will be sending the board the information for the director's midcycle review which will be due at the July meeting.
- There will be more information on the election under the agenda item.

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

Mr. Cronan reported that he is resigning from the position as board attorney due to personal reasons. He has recommended Lyndsey Ryan as the individual for the board to consider as his replacement. She is available to join the board meeting in July for the board to meet. Mr. Cronan sent Ms. Ryan's resume to the board for review. Mr. Cronan will also be available for the July meeting.

### **Old Business**

#### a. Facility for Election Office

Ms. Cook has no new information about the election office at this time.

#### b. Budget FY2020

Expenditure reports through May were provided to the Board Members. Ms. Cook responded to questions from Board Members.

#### c. Review of Invoices

Ms. Cook previously provided Board Members with copies of invoices received since the last meeting. She responded to questions from Board Members.

#### d. Budget FY2021

Ms. Cook provided Board Members with the adopted budget from the County Manager Andrew Hollis.

e. County Bulletins

Ms. Cook previously distributed copies of recent County Bulletins. There were no questions from Board Members.

f. June 2<sup>nd</sup> review

Ms. Cook applauded the staff for a job well done. The pressure of adjusting to a totally different election process and each member took it in stride and took on any challenge that was given to them. The staff of two in the office processed well over 10,000 pieces of mail and everything was done correctly in MDVoters. There were no discrepancies in any part of the election process. This included reissuing ballots in office to those voters who called and had not received their ballot. The vote center was slow for election day. The staff at the warehouse took on double the number of canvasses than have been in previous elections and did it well. Everything was accounted for and again, there were no discrepancies on that end either. We had approximately 660 undeliverable ballots because the voter did not update their information with the board of elections. The statewide turnout was 41%, our turnout was 44.2% which is a little lower than the 2016 Presidential Primary which was 45.5%, but much higher than the 2012, which had an incumbent President, which was 27.9%. Approximately 9% of the voters used the ballot drop boxes to place their ballots.

**New Business**

There were no items to discuss under New Business.

**Confirmation of next meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Board will be July 15, 2020 at 9:30 AM.

A motion was made by Ms. MacKinnon for the board to continue to meet remotely. Mr. Black seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Closed Session**

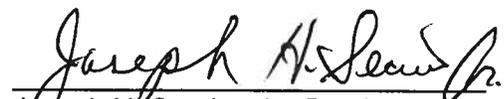
There were no items for discussion in Closed Session.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Black moved adjournment of the meeting. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:32 AM.

Due to Mr. Bulman's absence the minutes were prepared by the Election Director.

Attested,

  
Joseph H. Secrist, Jr., President

Respectfully submitted,

  
Richard B. Bulman, Secretary