

Minutes

Talbot County Board of Elections
215 Bay Street
Easton, MD 21601
August 17, 2022

Attendance

Board Members Present

Walter Black. Vice President	(D)
Richard Bulman	(R)
Wadella Thomas	(R)
Susan MacKinnon	(D)

Staff

Crystal McGinn, Election Director *

Tammy Stafford

Donna Hacker

Fred Gleockler

Board Attorney

Lyndsey Ryan

Public

None

* Via Video Conferencing

The monthly meeting of the Talbot County Board of Elections was held August 17, 2022 in Conference Room # One at the Board office indicated above. In the absence of Board President, Mr. Joseph Secrist, Mr. Black chaired the meeting. He called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM and noted that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Black asked if the Board had any corrections or additions to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 13, 2022, copies of which had been forwarded to the Board Members in advance of the meeting. Mr. Bulman moved approval of the minutes as presented. Ms. MacKinnon seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Addition/Changes to the Agenda

Mr. Black asked if there were any additions to the agenda as published. Mr. Bulman noted that the Board had asked that the agendas be formatted in the form used by previous Election Directors. He asked that the following be added to the agenda for

this meeting: Budget 2022; Budget 2023; Review of Invoices; and County Bulletins. Ms. Stafford asked that the Board meet as the Board of Canvassers. Ms. Ryan noted that no public meeting notice had been published and suggested the Board of Canvassers items be deferred to a later date to allow for proper notice to the public. Mr. Bulman then moved approval of the agenda with the addition of the four items he offered. Ms. MacKinnon seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Election Director's Report

Ms. McGinn provided the Board with a written report on activities since the last Board Meeting. A copy of her report is attached to these minutes. She supplemented this report with her observations regarding the recent Primary Election focusing on staffing and judges training.

Board Attorney's Report

Ms. Ryan summarized a law suit filed in U.S. District Court by an individual and an unincorporated association against the State Board of Elections and most Counties. The suit addresses the propriety of grant funds provided by a non-profit and the use of these funds. The suit also alleges that there was drop box ballot stuffing during the Primary Election. She has discussed the Complaint with the County Attorney who forwarded it onto the County's insurance provider, the Local Government Insurance Trust.

Ms. Ryan is preparing materials for the Board regarding the changes enacted by the legislature regarding closed meetings.

Old Business

A. Facility

Ms. McGinn had no new information to report regarding facilities for the Board of Elections.

New Business

A. Review of Gubernatorial Primary 2022

Ms. Stafford reported that Tilghman Island Volunteer Fire Department contacted her about damage to its building during the Primary Election. They have a video of the incident that resulted in the damage. The Board deferred discussion of how to respond to their request to pay for the damages until its next regular meeting, when it is

expected that the Fire Department will be able to provide the Board with a copy of the video and an estimate to fix the damage.

B. Election Judges – compensation and staffing

Ms. McGinn and Ms. Stafford discussed with the Board the difficulty in attracting an adequate number of Election Judges for this recent Primary. Ms. McGinn suggested that the Board consider increasing compensation for the judges, providing mileage allowance for judges who pick up and return supplies and an increase in fees to attend training. Ms. McGinn surveyed counties of similar size to Talbot for their compensation packages and provided the Board with the results of her survey. Ms. MacKinnon moved that the Board increase the compensation for training to \$100. Mr. Black ruled the motion failed for lack of a second.

In further discussion, Ms. Stafford said we need 25 to 50 more judges for the General Election. Board Members and staff offered several suggestions to attract more election judge candidates. Mr. Bulman suggested that we ask the Election Director to provide her recommendation for salaries and incentives that would attract more candidates at an upcoming meeting. Following discussion among Board Members and staff, Mr. Bulman moved that the Election Director prepare her recommendations for compensation and incentives and that the Board meet in a Special Meeting at 9:30 AM on August 25, 2022 to consider her recommendations. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Budget 2022

Mr. Bulman called the Board's attention to the financial report provided by Ms. McGinn for the Budget year that ended on June 30, 2022. To date, expenses recorded by the county are about 96.1% of budget. Ms. McGinn noted that not all expenses for the year have been paid.

Budget 2023

No report of expenditures for the current year was available.

Review of Invoices

Ms. McGinn provided the Board with copies of invoices received since the last meeting. There were no questions from Board Members.

County Bulletins

County Bulletins through August 5, 2022 were provided to the Board Members. Ms. McGinn had no issues to point out to the Board in the County Bulletins.

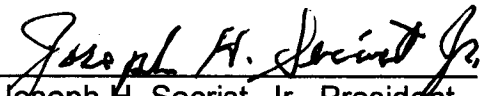
Confirmation of next meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board of Elections will be Wednesday, September 21, 2022 at 9:30 AM. A Special Meeting of the Board of Elections will be held on August 25, 2022 at 9:30 AM.

Adjournment

On behalf of the Board, Mr. Black thanked the staff for a smooth election. Ms. Thomas moved adjournment of the meeting. Mr. Bulman seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:07 AM.

Attested,


Joseph H. Secrist, Jr., President

Respectfully submitted,


Richard B. Bulman, Secretary