

# **Minutes**

Talbot County Board of Elections  
215 Bay Street  
Easton, MD 21601  
*October 14, 2022*

## **Present:**

### **Board**

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

### **Staff**

Chrystal McGinn, Election Director  
Tammy Stafford  
Donna Hacker

### **Board Attorney**

Lyndsey Ryan

### **Public**

Patrick Firth  
Nancy Andrew  
An unnamed person attended by telephone

A Special meeting of the Talbot County Board of Elections was held on October 14, 2022 in Conference Room # One at the Board office indicated above. President Joseph Secrist called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Mr. Secrist noted that a quorum was present.

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

Mr. Secrist noted that the agenda as published should have included the following items:  
Determination of a Quorum and Public Comments.

Ms. MacKinnon moved approval of the agenda as follows:

- a) Declaration of a Quorum
- b) Public Comments
- c) Discuss canvassing and tabulation of mail-in ballots prior to the General Election
- d) Election Director Position.

Mr. Black seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

## **Public Comments**

Mr. Secrist noted that Mr. Firth of the Talbot County Democratic Central Committee wrote a letter to him and the rest of the Board Members requesting that the Board develop a process to canvass ballots as they are returned. He also requested time to address the Board if a Special Meeting is held by the Board on this topic. Mr. Secrist invited Mr. Firth and Ms. Andrew to address the Board if they choose.

Mr. Firth addressed the Board regarding his letter concerning early canvassing. He noted that Baltimore County has recently approved early canvassing. Mr. Secrist thanked Mr. Firth for his comments.

## **Early Canvassing and tabulation of Mail-in Ballots**

Mr. Bulman asked Ms. McGinn for an overview of how the election process works and how it would be modified if the Board approved early canvassing of Mail-In Ballots. Following her summary of the process, she reported that, as of this meeting, 4,273 applications for Mail-In Ballots have been sent out. The office has received 150-175 ballots returned to date. Her opinion is that there is no need to incur the cost of an additional Mail-In Ballot canvass.

Ms. MacKinnon presented the results of her analysis of Mail-In Ballots in 2018, in 2020 and the Primary election this year. She expressed her view that the Board should offer the public more timely election results and supports the idea that the Board approve early canvassing of Mail-In Ballots. Mr. Black expressed his support for Ms. MacKinnon's analysis and her opinion for an early canvass. Following further discussion, Mr. Black moved that the Board have an early canvass of the Mail-In Ballots. Ms. MacKinnon seconded the motion, it passed by a vote of 3 yes votes (MacKinnon, Black, Secrist) and 2 no votes (Bulman, Thomas).

The Board then discussed possible dates to the canvass. Ms. MacKinnon then moved to schedule a Mail-In Ballot canvass at 10:00 a.m. on October 25, 2022 at the Election Board warehouse. Mr. Black seconded the motion. It passed by a vote of 3 yes votes (MacKinnon, Black, Secrist) and 2 abstentions (Bulman, Thomas).

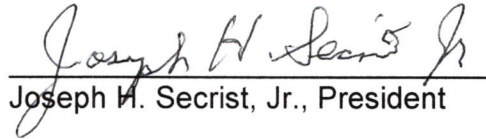
## **Election Director Position**

Ms. McGinn notified the Board by email that she is resigning her position as Election Director. Her final day will be November 18, 2022. She explained her reasons to the Board. Mr. Secrist has been in contact with Shermaine Malcolm, Human Resources Director. Ms. MacKinnon reminded the Board of the experience we had operationally when we were recruiting for an Election Director in the past. She suggested we consider advertising for both an Election Director and a Deputy Election Director. Board Members, staff and Board Attorney discussed the issues to consider in this approach. Following this discussion, Ms. MacKinnon moved that the Board approve advertising for the position of Election Director I. Mr. Black seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

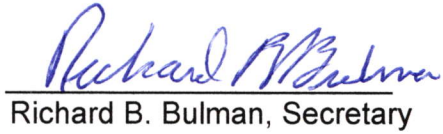
## Adjournment

Mr. Black moved adjournment of the meeting. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Attested,

  
Joseph H. Secrist, Jr., President

Respectfully submitted,

  
Richard B. Bulman, Secretary