

PROCEEDINGS

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

December 12, 2000

Present: Richard L. Coss, President
Charles Mobley, Republican Member
Marianne Schneider, Democratic Member
Eileen Wiggins, Democratic Alternate
Dorothy M. Waters, Republican Alternate
Dorothy M. Kaetzel, Election Director II
Sharon C. Mackereth, Election Registrar

Richard Coss called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. Roger Schlossberg, Attorney and Kaye E. Robucci, Election Deputy Director I, were both absent. Richard expressed his sympathy on behalf of the Board to Kaye Robucci on the loss of her mother, and to Dorothy Waters for the loss of a sister.

MINUTES: Charles Mobley, Jr. made a motion to accept the minutes from the closed session of the November 14, 2000 Board meeting; Marianne Schneider seconded the motion and all were in favor. Marianne Schneider made a motion to accept the minutes from the regular session of November 14, 2000 Board meeting; Charles Mobley, Jr. seconded the motion and all were in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Board was given copies of correspondences sent to Sharpsburg candidate, Jeffrey Sheffler, State Prosecutor, Steven Montanarelli and the town of Sharpsburg, in response to Mr. Sheffler being convicted of two felonies, which disqualified him as being a registered voter under Article 33, 3-102(b)(1). The State Prosecutor, Steven Montanarelli will let us know his decision on the case against Mr. Sheffler.

The Board discussed the Executive Order from the Governor on the formation of a Special Committee on Voting Systems and Election Procedures in Maryland. This committee is to evaluate the election systems and election procedures used, review existing recounts and contested election standards, recommend funding levels to provide accurate, convenient and reliable voting systems, and recommend changes to ensure full and fair elections in Maryland. We are optimistic and hopeful that they will be able to accomplish something, maybe in the way of funding for the future. We feel the Task Force set up by the Governor is a non-partisan group.

OLD BUSINESS: The Board went over the minutes from the County Commissioner meeting from November 28, 2000. Richard Coss and Dorothy Kaetzel explained to the Commissioners our system compared to the equipment used in Florida. The contract with Election Systems and Software runs out in July 2001. The County Commissioners seemed to favor renewing the contract for one year, at a cost of not more than \$80,000, which would include all maintenance, licensing, moving of voting machines and storage of equipment. The Election Board was pleased to have had a chance to present this to the County Commissioners. It was a very amiable meeting.

Jim Mobley brought up the subject of the sample ballot and he has a few suggestions on changing some of the wording. This would be to help the voter understand where his polling place is. The Board and the staff feel we got a good response on the Sample Ballot.

Dorothy presented a review of the Director's Meeting she attended last month.

The MVA is going to stop using the change of address form and redesign the Voter Registration Application to be used for both purposes.

The State is going to redesign the Temporary Certificate to include a clause stating they are signing under penalty of perjury. Most counties believe they might as well have same day registration.

The General Assembly is pursuing the possibility of a statewide voting system. The State is working on getting Touch Screen Voting Systems certified.

Legislation is being introduced which would remove the list of reasons for getting an Absentee Ballot.

JIS is unable to provide information on Criminal Convictions, such as sentence or period of probation or past conviction info.

The Board then brought up the problem with phones on election night. Dorothy said this was a problem across the state. Prince George's County is considering putting in an automated phone system that allows the caller to retrieve their polling place information.

NEW BUSINESS: The issue of a pay raise for the Election Board members was discussed at this time. Jim Mobley recently had a conversation with a member of the legislature and was told to put in for it again. After considering these items –

The County Commissioners denied the Board a raise to be effective in June 1999.

The length of their terms changed from 2 years to 4 years.

Considering the pay amounts other Boards receive across the State and pay receive by other Boards in the county.

The pay would not go into effect until 2003, when the new Board is appointed in pursuant to Article III, 35, of the Constitution of Maryland.

Better pay would entice more interested citizens in filling these positions on the Board.

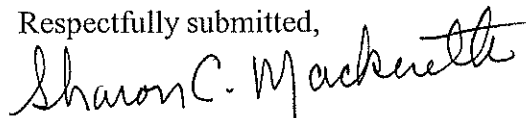
The current pay amount for the Board is – President - \$2,600 and members - \$2,300. After some consideration the Board agreed to ask for an increase of – President - \$5,300 and members - \$5,000. Jim Mobley made motion to accept these amounts and Marianne Schneider seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried. Substitute Board members pay is covered under the County Budget, as with the poll workers.

Richard Coss informed the Board that he would be leaving for Florida on December 27th, and would need a volunteer to pickup the Voter Registration Applications in his absence. Eileen Wiggins volunteered, since she lives close to the MVA. Marianne Schneider will assume Richard's position on the Board and Eileen Wiggins will become a voting member, while he is away.

Marianne Schneider made a motion to adjourn at 3:40 PM; Jim Mobley seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The next meeting will be on January 9, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon C. Mackereth
Election Registrar