

MINUTES

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTION

April 14, 2009

35 W. Washington Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740
240-313-2050

Present:

Board

Eileen Wiggins, President
John Benchoff, Democratic Member
Clyde Tate, Republican Member
Sharon Washington, Democratic Alternate
Carroll Earp, Republican Alternate

Staff

Dorothy Kaetzel, Election Director, I
Kaye Robucci, Deputy Director, I

Eileen Wiggins called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. Roger Schlossberg, Attorney, was absent. There was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes of February 10, 2009:

Eileen Wiggins asked if the Board had any corrections or modifications to the minutes of the February 10, 2009 Board Meeting. Approved as submitted.

Addition/Changes to the Agenda:

Dorothy Kaetzel requested the following addition to the agenda:
Reports: Election Director's Conference Call – April 14, 2009

Correspondence:

A. Mothershead's VRA's

Letter from State Prosecutor, James I. Cabezas, regarding the status of the voter registration applications received from Robert and Sheila Mothershead. The State Prosecutor's Office determined that the applications are bogus and can be removed from the pending file and disregarded. Their voter registration records were canceled on February 23, 2009.

B. E-mailed Information

The following information was e-mailed to the Board Members:

- MAEO Reservation Information dated 3/27/09
- Minutes of the Legislative Committee Meeting held 2/20/09
- The MAEO Constitution and Bylaws
- Application for MAEO Absentee Ballot dated 4/6/09
- Comments from SBE regarding SB445, SB327, SB415, SB595 & HB671
- MAEO Minutes – 2/12/09 and 3/11/09

Washington County Board of Elections
April 14, 2009 Board Minutes (Continued)
Page 2

- MAEO 2009 Conference Info dated 3/27/09
- Information on New Voting System dated 3/19/09
- Minutes of the Legislative Committee Meeting held 3/6/09

Dorothy Kaetzel informed the Board that if anyone is interested in camping at Rocky Gap or participating in the fishing tournament the deadline is April 17, 2009.

C. Warehouse Information

E-mail from James Courtney, SBE, requesting the Memo of Understanding, Signed Leasing Agreement or Letter of Occupancy and Certificate of Insurance. Dorothy Kaetzel responded that all documents have been sent except for the MOU because the County Attorney and Board Attorney will not permit her to sign it.

D. ACLU

Letter from the American Civil Liberties Union was sent to Dorothy Kaetzel, Roger Schlossberg and Linda Lamone regarding the incident on Election Day at District 11-2. Campaign signs were removed from private property that is located within the 100' No Electioneering area. The ACLU believes that this was improper and should not be done in the future. The Board recommended covering this topic in more depth during election worker training classes. Dorothy Kaetzel recommended advising the person or candidate that the signs are within 100' limit and to remove them or the police will be called. The Board would like to know if Roger Schlossberg has talked to the Attorney General's Office.

Reports:

A. Election Director's Conference Call – April 14, 2009

Dorothy Kaetzel reported on the Election Director's Conference call held April 14, 2009

- The Session ended 4/13/09
- Two major election related bills passed
 - HB893: Election Law – Voting Systems – Requirements. Which allows for the use of (2) voting systems in each polling place
 - Changes to the bill included:
 - a. Allowing more than one voting unit in each polling place that is accessible to voters with disabilities
 - b. Applies to all elections beginning with the 2010 Gubernatorial Primary Election
 - HB1179: Early Voting
 - 1 location for Washington County
 - In 2010, Friday to Thursday, excluding Sunday (10 AM to 8 PM)
 - In 2012, Saturday to Thursday, including Sunday (12 PM to 6 PM)
 - There is a question as to whether voting would occur on any holidays that occur during this time
 - Funding is not included in the 2010 budget
 - The current procurement will probably be put on hold
 - Biennial Meeting – There is no information on the date or location

Washington County Board of Elections
April 14, 2009 Board Minutes (Continued)
Page 3

Old Business:

A. Polling Place Evaluation Forms

Memo from Rick Urps, SBE, regarding the Washington County Polling Place Evaluation Summary. Overall, the evaluation forms and comments indicated that the polling places were properly managed. The Board made suggestions to the form that will be sent into Rick Urps.

New Business:

A. State Ethics Commission

Forms are due April 30, 2009.

B. Board Member MAEO Topics

Memo from Gail Carter and Anthony Guitierrez requesting topics for the 2 hour breakout session for board members only. Suggestions are due May 6, 2009.

The Board requested the following topic:

- Polling place evaluation form

Member Remarks:

Eileen Wiggins read the thank you card from Audrey Coffelt regarding the passing of her brother.

Carroll Earp shared his MAEO theme with us. We thought it was very good!

Charles Mobley was to be released from the hospital on April 11.

Adjournment:

The next Board Meeting will be May 12, 2009 at 2:00 PM,

There being no further business to come before the Board; Clyde Tate made a motion to adjourn at 3:50 PM; Carroll Earp seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Compiled by Kaye E. Robucci
Election Deputy Director, I

Respectfully Submitted,

Eileen Wiggins
Eileen Wiggins, Board President

5/12/09
Date

Carroll Earp
Carroll Earp, Board Secretary

5/12/09
Date