



MINUTES

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

March 12, 2019

35 W. Washington Street

Hagerstown, MD 21740

240-313-2050

Present:

Board:

Bruce Field, President
Tammy Downin, Vice-President
Jim Schultheis, Secretary
William Blazes, Member
Martin Lumm, Member
Roger Schlossberg, Board Attorney

Staff:

Kaye Robucci, Election Director II
Barry Jackson, Election Deputy Director II

Guests:

Jerry DeWolf, Chairman, Republican Central Committee
Matthew Breeding, Republican Central Committee
Connie Mozingo

President Bruce Field called the meeting to order at 3:05PM at the Washington County Board of Elections Office, 35 W. Washington Street, Suite 101, Hagerstown MD 21740. There was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes of February 12, 2019:

Jim Schultheis moved to accept the February minutes, Bill Blazes seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda:

Board of Canvassers will reconvene at the end of the regular meeting.
Correspondence, add II. Pollbook Project
Correspondence, add III. MOU Warehouse
New Business, add V. Ethics
New Business, add VI. Universal Voter Registration
New Business, add VII. Municipalities using voting equipment.

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

March 12, 2019

Page 2

Correspondence:

- I. Director's meeting minutes of February 21, 2019
 - A. Legislative Update – 97 total election bills this session. Barry Jackson will give an update during the Director's Report.
 - B. Project Management Office – the draft Warehouse MOU will be discussed in Correspondence, Item III.
 - C. Voter Registration – Confidentiality Request Forms will be sent to those applicable voters currently requesting confidentiality (no letters are sent to ACP participants).
 - D. Voting System – Electronic Pollbook Project will be discussed in Correspondence, Item II.
 - E. Post Election Maintenance – will begin next week.

- II. Email from Paul Aumayr, SBE, regarding the Electronic Pollbook Project –SBE has decided to stay with current pollbooks for 2020. The decision was based on ES&S' inability to produce the required number of devices for the 2020 Primary Election.

- III. Email from Keith Ross, SBE, regarding the Memorandum of Understanding for Warehousing. The Board and staff had several questions about the video surveillance. Bruce Field asked for clarification and cost for the April meeting.

Reports:

- I. Election Director
 - A. Personnel - Will be discussed in New Business, Item I.
 - B. Meetings & Trainings
 1. EW Committee: Has not formerly met this year.
 2. Director's Meeting: Next meeting March 21, 2019 in Annapolis.
 3. Lessons Learned Meetings
 - a. Voting Systems – Barry Jackson and Dean Robucci attended.
 - b. Absentee Voting – Teresa Morningstar attended.
 - c. Election Judge and Early Voting – Kaye Robucci and Tammi Derr attended.
 4. Modernizing Absentee Ballot Opening Procedures (MABOP): Barry Jackson reported that the MABOP committee met on February 13, 2019 to discuss modifications requested by Nikki Charlson and Jared DeMarinis of SBE. The recommendation from the committee was to open and duplicate ballots early, but keep everything together and save until Absentee Canvass 1 the Thursday after the election. This will be presented to the MAEO board meeting on March 15th.
 - C. Legislative Update – Barry Jackson reported on the following legislation currently being considered by the Maryland General Assembly:
 1. HB79/SB461 – SB461 received unfavorable report in committee. HB79 was amended to keep registration numbers as is, but allow LBEs to add an additional Early Voting site with LBE, county and SBE approval.
 2. HB119/SB333 – Permanent Absentee Ballot List. Received unfavorable report from Senate EHEA Committee.

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

March 12, 2019

Page 3

3. HB172 – Changes the time to be open on voter registration deadline from 9PM to 5PM. Favorable report from Ways and Means Committee.
4. HB237 – Changes start time at Early Voting Gubernatorial General Election from 10AM to 8AM. Passed the House, Senate vote on March 21st.
5. HB252/SB936 – Creates a program for detention centers and prisons similar to nursing homes. Favorable report from House Ways and Means, Senate EHEA hearing on March 14th.
6. HB269/SB343 – Would require prepaid postage on absentee ballot return envelopes. SB343 passed the Senate with costs split between LBEs and SBE.
7. HB286/SB449 – Same Day Registration and address change at polling places. SB449 received favorable report.
8. HB322/SB606 – Changes the words “Absentee Voting” to “Vote by Mail.” SB606 received unfavorable report in EHEA Committee.
9. HB382 – Would require LBEs to give status updates to voters who vote by absentee or provisional ballot. Hearing on February 12th.
10. HB423/SB934 – Voter registration in high schools. This would designate certain individuals, such as a guidance counselor, to be a voter registration coordinator in each high school, who would be responsible for voter registration drives, collecting applications, and returning them to the local boards of elections.
11. HB530/SB489 – Allows unaffiliated voters to affiliate with a party at Primary Early Voting.
12. HB565/SB363 – Would require move to all Ballot Marking Devices, instead of voting booths statewide.
13. HB569 – Removes requirement for local board of elections officials to be registered to vote in Maryland.
14. HB577 – Requires counties and municipalities to provide administrative leave to their employees who work as election judges on Election Day. Kaye Robucci congratulated Barry Jackson for requesting and receiving approval from our County Commissioners to offer 8 hours of Administrative Leave for county employees (registered to vote in MD) who serve as an Election Worker on Election Day.
15. HB578/SB782 – Requires reporting of precinct results at Early Voting. This would require hundreds of ballot styles to keep track of each party and precinct at the Primary Election.
16. HB706/SB919 – Removes web delivery absentee ballots, except in the case of overseas voters.
17. HB747 – Links all state agencies to the online voter registration system.
18. HB992 – Proof of identity at polling place. Delegate Parrott’s bill.
19. HB996/SB304 – Would require absentee ballot deposit boxes at each Early Voting site and at least at one polling place in each county.
20. HB1328 – Gives local boards of elections authority to determine no electioneering zone at each precinct, between 25’ and 100’.

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

March 12, 2019

Page 4

- D. Registration Statistics for February, 2019 were distributed to the Board
- E. Voting System Activities:
 - 1. Post Election Maintenance – Beginning March 13th. Must be completed by April 16th.
- F. Candidate Information:
 - 1. Filing began February 5, 2019 – No filings yet
- G. Projects
 - 1. Post Election Maintenance
 - 2. 2020 Census Information has been received.

- II. Attorney – Marty Lumm asked Roger Schlossberg about candidate signs being up year round, particularly Neil Parrott's signs, which are metal, green, and are attached to a post at a height similar to road signs. The office staff has received many complaints about the signs, that they are confusing and distracting to drivers. Roger said that, at one time, it was illegal to have green metal signs, because they were reserved for the State Highway Administration (SHA). Roger said he would check the law again.

Old Business:

- I. New location for the Office, Warehouse, Training and Early Voting
 - A. Kaye Robucci reported about the Commissioners' meeting on February 26th. We toured the former Shop and Save on February 22 and told the commissioners it met all of our needs. The open floor plan would require minimal build out.
 - B. Tammy Downin said the commissioners seemed receptive and asked for more information regarding pricing.
 - C. Kaye Robucci said Barry Jackson and she have been invited to the commissioners' closed session on March 19th to present the Board of Elections' case.
 - D. Marty said the commissioners asked if this was the only site we have looked at. He also said they asked if we needed all 32,000 square feet, and he was satisfied with our answer that we do.
- II. Tri-Hosts for the 2019 MAEO Meetings
 - A. Received the conference agenda and travel information from MAEO.
 - B. Rooms have been reserved for 11 attendees.
 - C. Meal packages were distributed to the board. Kaye Robucci asked that they be returned by next board meeting on April 9th.
 - D. We need to provide 2 door prizes.
- III. Early Voting Location(s) for 2020
 - A. Trying to reserve Hager Hall again for 2020.
 - B. Reached out to Community Volunteer Fire Department of Fairplay as a second site in south county.
- IV. FY20 Budget – Kaye Robucci let the board know that the overall budget has been reduced because of the elimination of possible mandates, such as new pollbooks. Kaye will send updated information to the Board.

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

March 12, 2019

Page 6

- IV. MOU – Board Attorney. Under the board’s direction, Kaye Robucci received some Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) from other LBEs as examples for selecting a board attorney.
- V. Ethics – Kaye Robucci reminded the board members that the state ethics form is due April 30th, 2019.
- VI. Universal Voter Registration – The Town of Clear Spring has inquired about universal voter registration. They are the only municipality in Washington County that does not have universal registration.
- VII. Municipalities using voting equipment – Town of Williamsport has inquired about using electronic pollbooks and scanning units to conduct their elections. Kaye Robucci will email the SBE Municipal Election Information document to the board for review at the next board meeting.

Members Remarks:

Kaye Robucci announced that the Green Party and Libertarian Party are no longer recognized parties in Maryland, but the Bread and Roses Party is.

MAEO Feud - Tammy, Bill, Jim, Marty, Kaye, Barry, and Connie have volunteered to participate.

Scheduling of Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Washington County Board of Elections will be held on Tuesday, April 9th, 2019 at 3:00PM. The location is Washington County Board of Elections Office, 35 W. Washington Street, Hagerstown, MD; as pursuant to the Bylaws of the Washington County Board of Elections, Article 3, Section 3.3(A) 8.

Distributed Information:

- I. February Registration Statistics

Adjournment:

There being no other business to come before the Board at this time, Bruce Field called for a motion to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting and convene the Board of Canvassers. Bill Blazes made this motion at 4:50PM. Marty Lumm seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Marty Lumm made a motion to approve the following canvass minutes:

- November 8, 2018, Absentee Canvass I
- November 14, 2018, Combined Provisional and Absentee Canvass Minutes
- November 16, 2018, Absentee Canvass II and Certification of Results

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

March 12, 2019

Page 7

Bill Blazes seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. There being no other business to come before the Board of Canvassers at this time, Bruce Field called for a motion to adjourn the Board of Canvassers. Marty Lumm made this motion at 4:52PM. Bill Blazes seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

The Bylaws with advice of counsel shall follow the requirements of the Open Meetings Act as specified under Title 10, Subtitle 5 of the State Government Article.

Compiled by Barry Jackson
Deputy Election Director II

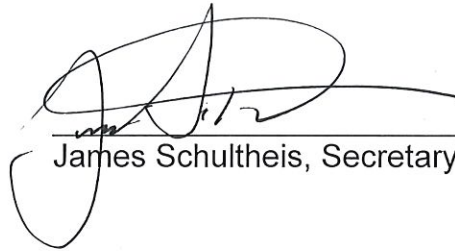
Respectfully Submitted,



Bruce Field, President

4/9/19

Date



James Schultheis, Secretary

4/9/19

Date