

MINUTES

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

December 10, 2002

35 W. Washington Street

Hagerstown, MD 21740

240-313-2050

Present:

Board

Richard L. Coss, President
Marianne Schneider, Democratic Member
Charles Mobley, Jr. Republican Member
Eileen Wiggins, Democratic Alternate
Dorothy Waters, Republican Alternate
Roger Schlossberg, attorney

Staff

Dorothy M. Kaetzel, Election Director II
Kaye E. Robucci, Election Deputy Director I

Guests

Scott Butki, Herald Mail
Linda So, WHAG

Richard Coss called the meeting to order at 2:45 PM. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes of November 12, 2002: President Richard Coss asked if the board had any corrections or modifications to the minutes of the November 12 board meeting. Dorothy Waters moved to approve the minutes as presented; Marianne Schneider seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously and Richard Coss, President, signed the minutes.

Addition/Changes to the Agenda: President Richard Coss called for any additions or changes to the agenda. Dorothy Kaetzel requested that several thank you letters she had prepared from the General Election be added to the Correspondence. There were no other requested changes to the agenda.

Approval of Additional Minutes: Minutes of Organization Meeting, November 5, 2002, Minutes of Canvass of Absentee Ballots, November 7, 2002 and Minutes of Canvass of Overseas Absentee Ballots and Provisional Ballots, November 15, 2002, were submitted for approval. Charles Mobley, Jr. made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Marianne Schneider seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Correspondence:

A. State Board of Elections

A memo was received from Mary Wagner, Deputy Director Election Management Division, congratulating us on our successful recount.

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B. Representative Bartlett

Response from Representative Roscoe Bartlett regarding election reform bill.

C. Minutes SBE

Minutes of the September 23, 2002 State Board Meeting were distributed.

D. Attorney General

Opinion of the Attorney General regarding the inconsistency between the State election law and the Baltimore City Charter concerning the date of the Baltimore City municipal general election.

E. 2002 Local Board Minutes

Chart of the Local Board Minutes was distributed.

F. Recount Procedures

Memo from Tim Augustine to Judy Arnold regarding the Optical Scan Voting System Manual Recount Procedures - Sort Team Method. During the recount, Roger Schlossberg discovered a potential problem with Paragraph 9 on Page 13.

Paragraph 9, page 13 currently reads:

9. If the recount tally for any precinct does not agree with the Statement of Votes Cast report from election day, the Election director shall request a second recount.

With optical scan voting system it is unlikely that the results will match perfectly because human eyes are evaluating voter intent.

Proposed revised language

9. If the recount tally for any precinct does not agree with the Statement of Votes Cast report from election day, and the difference can not be justified or explained as a result of undervotes or incorrectly marked ballots that are discovered during the manual recount, the Election Director shall request a second recount.

G. Infamous Crime Listing

Updated Infamous Crime Listing was received. Roger Schlossberg received a copy.

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H. Thank you letters

Dorothy Kaetzel prepared thank you letters to several individuals who assisted during the General Election.

Reports

A. Chewsville Community Center

At the November 12, 2002 Board meeting a motion was made to send a letter to Judge Wright regarding the complaints received about the trustee of the Chewsville Community Center. Judge Wright spoke to Roger Schlossberg regarding the issue. Roger Schlossberg recommended to the Board that if the Board was interested in filing a complaint to remove a trustee that the proper process would be for Roger to file the complaint.

B. Recount

Richard Coss thanked everyone for their hard work during the recount and he thanked Roger Schlossberg for all of his legal expertise. The recount went very well. The recount teams were instructed on the procedures prior to the recount and the candidates and media were invited to a similar meeting. This worked very well. Richard Coss suggested that thank you letters be sent to Pat Matsko and Stuart Harvey. The State Board requested copies of all of the forms we revised to use in the future.

Old Business:

A. Christmas Party

The Christmas Party will be held December 17, 2002 at 6:00 PM at the Fireside Restaurant.

New Business

A. Petition for Local Referendum

Discussed during closed session.

B. Complaint filed by James Devine

Discussed during closed session.

C. Green Party

Petition completed for Green Party. There were 12 valid signatures and 5 invalid signatures.

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Eileen Wiggins will pick up the work from the MVA during January, February and March while Richard Coss is away.

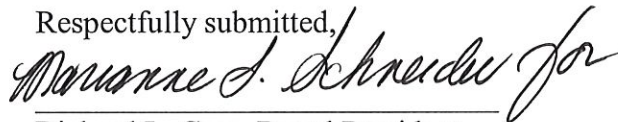
Scheduling of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Washington County Board of Election will be January 14, 2003, at 2:00 PM at the board office.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board at this meeting, a motion was made by Marianne Schneider; seconded by Charles Mobley to adjourn at 3:10 PM. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard L. Coss, Board President



Kaye E. Robucci

Election Deputy Director I