

PROCEEDINGS

**WASHINGTON COUNTY
BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

October 9, 2001

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

Richard Coss called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. Kaye Robucci, Election Deputy Director II, was absent.

Richard asked for a few minutes in silence in respect for the recently deceased past board member Jim Sprecher who died on September 18, 2001.

MINUTES: Charles Mobley made a motion to accept the minutes of September 12, 2001 as submitted. Marianne Schneider seconded the motion and all were in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE: Memo from Karen Hoyt-Stewart, ES&S was discussed regarding whether Washington County needed additional Eagles for the 2002 Elections. Dorothy informed Karen that we did not need additional Eagles. We have 51 tabulators and only 43 polling places since combining several districts.

The board received a copy of a letter Bob Antonetti, President of MAEO, sent to Helen L. Koss, Chairman of the State Board of Elections, regarding the Mock Election being moved to October 9-12, 2001. No one from our office will be attending; we have been through four elections with LEMS and feel it is not necessary to attend.

A letter was sent to Ron Whitt, IT Dept. for Washington County, by Charles Mobley representing the Board on the matter of communication problems on Election Day at some of the polling places. He included layouts of all the polling places including cell phone "dead spots" throughout the county. We are waiting for a response from Ron Whitt.

Charles Mobley received a letter from Senator Barbara Mikulski in response to his letter sent regarding Senate Bill 565. Eileen Wiggins also sent a letter to Senator Mikulski on this matter and she received the same letter. Senator Mikulski is cosponsoring the Equal Protection of Voting Rights Act of 2001 (S. 565), believing that this country is built on the right of every legal U.S. citizen to vote for our leaders. Therefore, it is our responsibility to protect these essential democratic rights under our Constitution.

The memo from Biennial Planning Committee was discussed and Dorothy told the Board about the Pin Exchange Game that would be played during the Conference. The agenda for the Biennial and directions were included.

The Board interviewed five people for the fifth position in our office this week and after a refusal by the first selection an agreement was made on Rita Escobar. Dorothy told the Board about a letter she received from Denise Boward, one of the prospects interviewed, thanking the Board for time taken.

A letter from Karen Luther, County Purchasing Agent, was sent to ES&S regarding lease agreement for the Optech Voting System, which was signed.

The new Infamous Crime Listing was discussed, with copy given to Board Attorney.

OLD BUSINESS: Roger Schlossberg distributed copies of the Charter for the City of Hagerstown. Discussion followed on getting the City Election to coincide with the County Election. Roger questioned – whether or not the Board Members should go to the City Council or should the County Commissioners go to the City representatives. The City Council would need to change the Charter so the dates coincide. It would benefit them on several fronts – 1. Better turnout on Election Day (more voters out); 2. Decrease cost of the City Election (by combining their candidates on the same ballot with the County); 3. Possibly combining the two Election Boards, some how. Roger would be willing to approach both the City and County Administrators on this possibility. The Board agreed.

Charles Mobley gave a description of the Communication Problems on Election Day, as a follow-up to previous discussions by the Board.

Dorothy provided more information on the five interviews that the Board had last week. The new employee will start on October 31, 2001, the start of a new pay period.

Board discussed backup tapes for voter registration records and additional files that we require backup on. Kaye Robucci called Tejal, SBE about daily backup and storage off site. Tejal agreed that this was a good idea, and she will be in touch with us on how to accomplish this on LEMS. As for our files in Word, we should backup daily and store off site. These files - we are able to backup ourselves.

Dorothy informed the Board that the bid for furniture to be used in the new office was awarded to OSI for \$10,300. The bid for our new Kardveyer will go out this week.

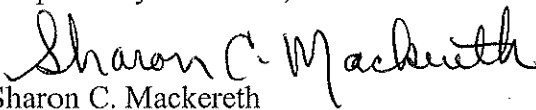
Plans were made for traveling to the Biennial Meeting.

No new business.

Next meeting – November 13, 2001

Charles Mobley made a motion to adjourn at 3:30 PM; Marianne Schneider seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,


Sharon C. Mackereth
Election Registrar