

MINUTES

**WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTION
February 8, 2011**

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

Present:

Board

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

Staff

Kaye Robucci, Election Director, I
Sharon Mackereth, Acting Deputy Director, I

Eileen Wiggins called the meeting to order at 2:09 PM. There was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes of January 11, 2011:

Eileen Wiggins asked if the Board had any corrections or modifications to the minutes of the January 11, 2011 Board Meeting. Approved as submitted.

Addition/Changes to the Agenda:

Kaye Robucci requested additions under **New Business** - Senate Bill 534.

Correspondence:

- A. MAEO Conference Theme Contest – E-Mailed to Board
- B. Election Bill Hearing Dates – E-Mailed to Board
- C. Agenda MAEO Executive Board Meeting 2/4/2011 – E-Mailed to Board
- D. Date of Primary Election – E-Mailed to Board
- E. MAEO Legislative Report 1/5/2011 – E-Mailed to Board
- F. County Board Pay – E-Mailed to Board
- G. Thank you letter from Governor O'Malley

H. By-Laws of the Democratic Central Committee -

The By-Laws of the Committee was to inform the Election Board that they will be increasing the Democratic Central Committee membership to ten full members.

Reports -

A. City of Hagerstown Meeting, January

Kaye Robucci reported on the meeting with the City of Hagerstown Town Clerk, Donna Spickler. They went over the City Charter and discussed several dates that conflict with our election calendar. Roger Schlossberg, Board Attorney, offered to assist with preparing an official document to present to the City Board.

Old Business -

A. Alternate Board Members -

The Board tabled this discussion for under **New Business - Senate Bill 534.**

B. Change Polling Place for District 8-0 and 10-2

Roger Schlossberg was asked, by the Board for his opinion of District 8 - Old Rohrsersville School polling place (which he is assigned to visit on Election Day). Mr. Schlossberg described it as a disaster, even the parking lot is in poor shape. If a voter were in a wheel chair they would have difficulty entering the building. The ceilings are low with poor lighting and would not pass a fire inspection with only one way in and out. A better location would be the Sub Station for District 8 which is just a short distance from the current polling place. It is a fairly new building that meets all necessary requirements, such as ample parking and handicap accessibility. If we could not get approval to use the Sub Station there is the Brownsville Church of the Brethren in the same area. Kaye Robucci will contact the Sub Station to see if we may use it.

South Hagerstown High School - District 10-2 using the gymnasium as the polling location, but because of sporting events poll workers cannot set up the night before. The cafeteria would be a much better location in the school. This would mean changing the entrance to the school to the back of the school property off of Downsville Pike. Kaye Robucci will talk with Mark Mills, Broad of Education, about changing the location and setup a spring visit to survey the room. Clyde Tate would like to be part of the survey and selecting of polling places in the future

C. FY12 – Budget update –

Kaye Robucci has been asked for more information by the County Budget and Finance office.

D. Tentative Election Worker Training Dates –

Kaye Robucci provided the Board with possible dates and times for election worker training. But, with the date of the 2012 Primary Election still in question with the State Legislature we cannot finalize these dates. It is possible the primary would not be before March 1, 2012 and not after April 30, 2012. In the past, many States were having their elections too early and voters were not in favor of this.

Kaye will be communicating with the representatives of the Ag Center in hopes that we will be able to set the equipment up and leave it up (4 – 6 weeks) the whole time we need to use the building. Using a school for training (like in 2010) is out of the question in this election cycle.

E. Early Voting Site for 2012 –

With the City of Hagerstown election on our ballot in 2012 – the City is interested as to where the Early Voting site will be. The Board discussed several locations – the American Red Cross on Conrad Court, American Legion on Northern Avenue, Social Security office on Downsview Pike, Unemployment office downtown Hagerstown, City Hall on North Potomac Street, Old Armory on E. Franklin, MD Vehicle Administration on Sharpsburg Pike or the Meritus Hospital Center. Roger Schlossberg recommended making a drawing showing exactly what we require in the facility for it to be used as an Early Voting site. Give this information to the City and asked them for a location within city limits.

Kaye Robucci, Director, would like the next Early Voting site to a permanent location. She will go to the City and ask for an Early Voting place – but they need to reply quickly – else we will have to look outside of the City.

New Business:

A. Senate Bill 534 –

Senators Christopher Shank, George Edwards and Ronald Young introduced SB534 which would change the makeup and pay of the Election Board. Because of the effective date it might not affect the new board about to be appointed. This Bill will change the make-up of the members of this Board. Instead of three voting members and two alternate non-voting members there will be five voting members. The party affiliations will be the same – three and two depending on the governing party in office.

The pay for these positions will also be affected. The governing of pay will be changed from the State Legislatures to the County Commissioners.

Carroll Earp, Alternate Member provided the Board with a pay analysis showing Washington County as next to the lowest pay for alternates in the State.

Roger Schlossberg provided some input and clarification on this issue. If any Board Member wants to go to the Legislature or the Commissioners about this Bill – they have the right as an individual but not as a representative of the Board.

Senator Christopher Shank has requested pay information and duties regarding the Board. The Board and Council instructed Kaye Robucci to give Senator Shank the requested information.

Members Remarks

Kaye Robucci, Election Director, reported on a phone conversation she had with Senator Christopher Shank. The conversation was regarding contact Eileen Wiggins made with Delegate Andrew Serafini, District 2A, with her thoughts on the State Pension regulations. According to Senator Shank the Delegation was concern, that maybe some line was crossed by Ms. Wiggins.

Kaye Robucci contacted Linda Lamone, SBE Administrator, she agreed that Ms. Wiggins had the right to contact her State Delegate regarding issues that concerned her outside of this office. As long as Ms. Wiggins does not invoke her position on this Board. Linda Lamone suggested that the Board could request that such support or opposition to a Bill be disclosed to the entire Board. The Board was not in favor of requiring this disclosure.

Scheduling of Next Meeting

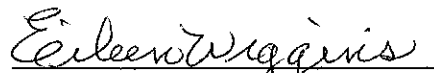
The next Election Board Meeting will be on March 8, 2011 at 2:00 PM.

Adjournment:

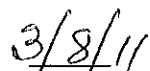
There being no further business to come before the Board at this time – Mr. Clyde Tate made a motion to adjourn at 3:35 PM; Sharon Washington seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Compiled by Sharon C. Mackereth
Acting Deputy Director, I

Respectfully Submitted,



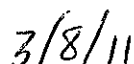
Eileen Wiggins, Board President



Date



Carroll Earp, Board Secretary



Date