

MINUTES

**WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTION
October 9, 2012**

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

Present:

Board

John Benchoff, President
Carroll Earp, Vice President
Tammy Downin, Secretary
Bruce Field, Member
William Blazes, Member
Roger Schlossberg, Board Attorney

Staff

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

John Benchoff called the meeting to order at 2:02PM. There was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes of September 11, 2012:

John Benchoff asked if the Board had any corrections or modifications to the minutes of the September 11, 2012 Board Meeting. The following corrections were made.

Corrections –

Page 1 – Approval of Minutes of August 14, 2012: Correction made.

Page 1 – Approved as submitted by Carroll Earp; seconded by Bill Blazes. Correction made.

Page 5 – Members Remarks – Tammy Downin informed the Board that she will be on vacation the last week in September, 2012 and will be available if needed. Correction made.

Tammy Downin moved to have the minutes accepted with corrections; Bill Blazes seconded. Unanimously approved.

Addition/Changes to the Agenda:

Kaye Robucci requested the following changes –

Deletion to Agenda – under New Business – item B, Sign Information.

Deletion to Agenda – under Distributed of Information – Specimen Mailer.

Dennis Weaver, Clerk of Court, Washington County, is present today to do the swearing in of the Board Members for Early Voting beginning October 27, 2012. The separate forms for each member were signed. Mr. Weaver then swore in the Board Members as per Maryland Election Laws. The Board Attorney will visit the Clerk of Court's office to be sworn in.

John Benchoff, Board President
Carroll Earp, Board Vice President
Tammy Downin, Board Secretary
Bruce Field, Board Member
William Blazes, Board Member

Correspondence:

None.

Reports:

- A. Director, Kaye Robucci, was requested to do a presentation on the upcoming Presidential General Election by the Hagerstown Lions Club on October 9, 2012. The luncheon went well and there were several current election workers in the group.

Old Business:

- A. Phones, South Hagerstown HS Gym and Bethel United Methodist Church -

John Benchoff reported that he spoke with Larry Messer, BOE, regarding a phone at South Hagerstown High School and was told the phone would not be a problem. There is an outlet for a phone to be used. Mr. Messer did comment on the folding Gym doors that separate the gym that they no longer operate. This should not be a problem because we will not need them. The Director mentioned that at one time we did have two polling places there. The doors will not be an issue – there will be one large room for a polling place.

- B. Election Worker Training Classes –comments and suggestions -

The Director thanked everyone for their help during the training classes. John Benchoff commented on the skit that was done in relation to Challengers and Watchers – which went very well and was informative.

- C. Churches used as polling places, No Electioneering Information update -

The Board perused a letter from Ross Goldstein, Deputy Administrator, SBE, addressing the use of private facilities as polling places. Several of our polling places are churches.

Roger Schlossberg, Board Attorney and Kaye Robucci, Director, will draft a letter regarding signs or information that not only favor or disfavors a candidate, but also signs or information which favor or disfavors a referendum issue on the ballot. It is important to maintain an area that protects against any materials that can be used to express their beliefs or feelings.

- D. Challenge of Voters on Election Day, update -

The Director informed the Board that she received a message from Nikki Carlson, SBE, regarding the letter being sent to candidates and special interest groups pertaining to Challengers and Watchers.

Ms. Carlson stated that you can not force these deadlines. If a challenger shows up on Election Day with a certificate – we need to allow them in. This office cannot force them to give us a list. We need to inform the Chief Judges of this conflict between the statutes and regulations. This will be revisited.

E. 100' No Electioneering zone – revisit issue

F. Polling Place Evaluation Program –

John Benchoff, Board President, assigned polling places to the Board Members for visitation on Election Day. The Board Attorney was assigned polling places close to the Election Board office. The polling places that need to be evaluated are marked on the handout sheet. These are the polling places that had problems during the Primary Election.

Bruce Field and Tammy Downin have five each. John Benchoff will pick up two more. Carroll Earp will do WACOHU Grange Hall, Big Pool Community Center and Clear Spring High School. District 19, Little Antietam Community Center will have two new Chief Judges. District 22-2, Pangborn Elementary School has a new Tech Judge – Zach Tussings. Bruce Field will do North Hagerstown High School and Western Heights Middle School. John Benchoff will do St. Joseph Catholic Church.

G. Rockland School Request -

Rockland School had requested a presentation on voting. The Director has left several messages but the teacher has not called back.

New Business

A. By-Laws, Discussion of an Assistant Secretary –

Bruce Field made motion to table this discussion until the January, 2013 Board Meeting; seconded by Carroll Earp. Unanimously accepted.

B. Sign Information – Deleted.

C. Specimen Ballot -

The specimen ballot is scheduled to be mailed by October 22, 2012 – before Early Voting starts. The Director gave an explanation on the Runbeck absentee ballot delivery process. The staff should keep track of the complaints we receive from voters not receiving their ballots and bring these to the Board's attention.

D. Early Voting Schedule -

The Director informed the Board that only two days of Early Voting is required to be evaluated. Board Members should at least make an appearance each day. -

John Benchoff – Saturday, October 27, 2012

Tammy Downin – Sunday, October 28, 2012

Roger Schlossberg – Monday, October 29, 2012

Bill Blazes – Tuesday, October 30, 2012

Carroll Earp – Wednesday, October 31, 2012

Bruce Field – Thursday, November 1, 2012

Signs designating the Early Voting location will be setup the same as the Primary Election. Digital signs will be used at Chewsville and Rohrersville. Signage will be setup at South Hagerstown High School directing voters down to the Gym.

WHAG 25 has requested an interview on Monday, October 15, 2012 with Kaye Robucci, Election Director, to talk about voter registration and polling place changes.

E. Election Day Schedule -

The Election schedule which covers the entire election cycle even canvassing was discussed.

We need two Board Members (one of each party) on Thursday, October 25, 2012 for verification of supplies used for Early Voting. Bruce Field and Bill Blazes will be here at 4:00 PM. We will need two Board Members (one of each party) on Thursday, November 1, 2012 for verification of supplies used on Election Day. Tammy Downin and Carroll Earp will be here at 4:00 PM. The Director informed the Board that she has two helpers lined up for Election night along with Jack Coffelt.

F. Election judge pickup schedule -

Saturday, Nov. 3, 2012 judges will pick up the supplies for Election Day. John Benchoff, Sharon Mackereth, Tammy Downin and Dean Robucci will be at the warehouse for the Democratic Chief Judges pick up.

Carroll Earp, Kaye Robucci, Bruce Field, Bill Blazes and Larry Shipe will be at the office for the Republican Chief Judges pick up.

G. City of Hagerstown, possibility of referendum regarding stadium --

The Director has heard from a group of citizens that want a referendum or ordinance on the ballot so voters can vote for or against the building of the new stadium. Although some County funds will be allocated for this project County voters will not have the right to vote on it.

There is nothing before the City Council at this time pertaining to this matter.

H. Christmas Party –

Roger Schlossberg and Bruce Field both offered their homes for the Christmas Party this year. The Board appreciated the offer from both Roger and Bruce but suggested the convenience for everyone to go out to a nice restaurant. A tentative date was set for December 13, 2012, at 6:00 PM for our Christmas Party – subject to availability; an alternative date is Wednesday, December 12, 2012.

I. Use of South Hagerstown High Gym in 2014 –

The Director informed the Board of a phone call she received from Mr. Hedges, Business Manager, South Hagerstown High School, regarding use of the gym for voting. His concern is that it affects the sporting events at the school.

Tammy Downin made a motion to table the discussion of the South Hagerstown High School gymnasium in 2014; Bruce Field seconded. Unanimously accepted.

Executive Session

At this time, Bill Blazes made motion to adjourn the regular Board Meeting at 3:30 PM and convene into Executive Session; Bruce Field seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Return to Regular Meeting

Bruce Field made motion to re-convene the regular Board Meeting at 4:20 PM; Bill Blazes seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Members Remarks

Carroll Earp thanked Roger Schlossberg for hosting the office picnic – it was an enjoyable evening.

Scheduling of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Washington County Board of Elections will be held on 9:00 AM on November 14, 2012 – subject to change. The following month the Washington County Board of Elections meeting will be December 11, 2012.

Distributed Information

SBE Post Card mailer

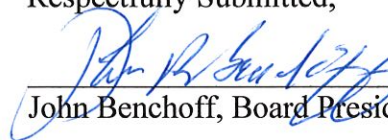
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Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Bruce Field made a motion to adjourn at 5:00PM; Carroll Earp seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

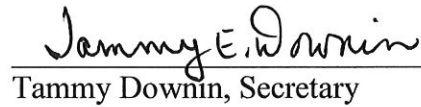
Compiled by Sharon C. Mackereth
Deputy Director, I

Respectfully Submitted,



John Benchoff, Board President

12/10/2012
Date



Tammy Downin, Secretary

12/11/12
Date