

MINUTES

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTION February 8, 2005

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

Present:

Board

Charles Mobley, Jr., President
John F. Barr, Republican Member
Eileen Wiggins, Democratic Member
Clyde J. Tate, Republican Alternate
Gregory Bannon, Attorney

Staff

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

Guests

Dorothy Waters
Marianne Schneider

Charles Mobley called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM. There was a quorum present.

Charles Mobley presented citations to Dorothy Waters and Marianne Schneider in recognition of their years of service to the voters of Washington County. Charles Mobley announced that Eileen Wiggins has moved into the position of Democratic Member and he welcomed Clyde Tate as the Republican Alternate.

2:10 PM – Marianne Schneider excused herself from the meeting.

Approval of Minutes of January 11, 2005

Charles Mobley asked if the Board had any corrections or modifications to the minutes of the January 11, 2005 Board Meeting. John Barr made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, and Eileen Wiggins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Addition/Changes to the Agenda: Dorothy Kaetzel requested the following additions to correspondence: Legislation for Election Workers Pay, MAEO Minutes, Legislative Committee Minutes, State Board Meeting Minutes. She requested the addition of the Memo regarding the County Employee Paychecks under New Business.

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Correspondence:

A. Joint Election Officials Liaison Committee

The minutes of the Joint Election Officials Liaison Committee meeting held January 6 & 7 were discussed. Dorothy Kaetzel mentioned the following items:

- Many states will have difficulty meeting the 2006 deadline for implementation of a statewide voter registration system without federal funds
- As of January 1, 2006, all polling places must be accessible. We will have to find a new polling place in District 15

2:20 PM – Gregory Bannon entered the meeting

B. Candidate Filing for 2006

Candidates may not file their Certificate of Candidacy prior to July 5, 2005

C. Clyde Tate Appointment Letter

Letter from Governor Robert Ehrlich to Clyde Tate appointing him the Republican Alternate.

D. Opinions of the Attorney General

Delegate Madaleno asked if a county could authorize funds to purchase a feature to allow a paper trail. Robert Zarnoch, Assistant Attorney General, indicated that SBE controls the voting system and no county has the power to authorize a paper trail.

Delegate McDonough asked if the information technology specialist who supports a local election board must be a member of the local staff. Judith Arnold, Assistant Attorney General, found no requirement that this position be a local board employee. This position could be staffed by the county.

E. Election Worker Pay Increase

E-mail from Dorothy Kaetzel to Rod Shoop, County Administrator, regarding the Board's support of an increase in election worker pay from 125.00 to 175.00 for Chief Judges and 100.00 to 150.00 for Judges. Copy of Legislation from Delegate Christopher Shank increasing the election worker pay and substitute board member pay. The effective date would be 2006 for the election workers and June 2007 for the substitute board members.

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F. MAEO Legislative Committee Meetings & MAEO Minutes

MAEO Legislative Meetings Minutes for January 20 and January 31 were distributed. The next meeting is February 10, 2005.

Minutes of the January 12, 2005 MAEO Meeting were distributed. MAEO will be held June 5-7, 2005 in Ocean City, MD. Eileen Wiggins will be absent.

G. State Board Meetings

Minutes from the September, October and November 2004 meetings were distributed.

H. Lessons Learned Workshop Documents

Thank you letter from Linda Lamone, SBE Administrator, for attending the Lessons Learned Workshop on January 18, 2005. Charles Mobley reviewed the Lesson Learned Action Items Matrix with the Board. Dorothy Kaetzel informed the Board that she had asked if the State would change the date of the Provisional Ballot Canvass to a later date. She was informed that the Board of Canvassers is permitted to reconvene at a later date.

Reports:

A. Lessons Learned Report

Discussed under Correspondence

B. Board of Education - Parent/Teacher Conferences on Election Day

Charles Mobley, Dorothy Kaetzel and Kaye Robucci met with Patricia Abernethy, Deputy Superintendent for Instruction, and Jeffery Harr, Facilities Supervisor, on February 2, 2005. They met to discuss the problems associated with Parent/Teacher Conferences being held on Election Day. Patricia Abernethy distributed school calendars through 2007 that include Parent/Teacher Conferences on November 7, 2006. Dorothy Kaetzel pointed out that according to EDU 7-103, primary and general election days are holidays. Patricia Abernethy said the Board of Education requests and receives an exemption to the law. Among other changes, they requested that we find a new polling place for Funkstown Elementary School (10-1) and Hickory Elementary School (26-1). Ms. Abernethy will summarize what was discussed and send us a report.

John Barr reported that he attended the Board of Education Meeting on February 1, 2005 when the school calendar was approved through 2007. Dorothy Kaetzel sent a letter to Linda Lamone, SBE Administrator, on February 3, 2005 addressing our concerns and

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dissatisfaction in how the Board of Education has handled the situation. Mary Wagner, SBE, called Dorothy to inform her that she and Linda Lamone will be meeting with Delegate Christopher Shank on February 10, 2005 to discuss the situation.

Old Business:

A. City of Hagerstown

Dorothy Kaetzel update the Board on the following:

- Meeting with City Board on February 14, 2005
- The City Board and Nathan Robinson conducted site surveys
- The late filing by Mr. Fuller was not accepted

John Barr volunteered to assist with the return of supplies on City of Hagerstown election night. Dorothy Kaetzel will ask the City Board.

B. Budget FY06

Dorothy Kaetzel submitted the budget on January 28, 2005

C. Planning Registration Growth

Charles Mobley obtained 2 maps from the Department of Planning showing major developments and proposed subdivisions. Charles Mobley requested that a letter be sent to all of the mayors requesting any information on future growth through 2012. Charles Mobley will contact Mr. Thompson, Planning Department, to request a map of District 18 with the precinct overlays.

New Business:

A. County Paychecks

County paychecks now include a stale date of 90 days.

Executive Session:

Motion made by Eileen Wiggins to enter into executive session at 3:45 PM for discussion of personnel matters; John Barr seconded the motion and all were in favor. Kaye Robucci and Dorothy Waters excused themselves from the Executive Session. Regular session resumed at 3:55 PM.

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Members Remarks:

No remarks


Scheduling of Next Meeting

Due to the City of Hagerstown election being held on March 8, the next meeting of the Washington County Board of Elections will be held March 15, 2005, at 2:00 PM at the Board Office.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time. John Barr made a motion to adjourn at 3:59 PM; Eileen Wiggins seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,


Charles L. Mobley, Jr., Board President 3/15/05
Date


Kaye E. Robucci, Election Deputy Dir, I 2-10-05
Date