



## MINUTES

### WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

December 9, 2014

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

**Present:**

**Board**

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

**Staff**

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

John Benchoff, President, called the meeting to order at 2:08 PM; as pursuant to the Bylaws of Washington County Board of Elections, Article 3, Section 3.2(A)1. Bruce Field, Assistant Secretary, was absent. There was a quorum.

**Approval of Minutes of November 12, 2014:**

John Benchoff asked if the Board had any corrections or modifications to the minutes of November 12, 2014, Board of Elections meeting. Carroll Earp made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted; Bill Blazes seconded the motion. There was a unanimous acclamation of approval. As pursuant to the Bylaws of Washington County Board of Elections, Article 3, Section 3.3(A)2.

**Addition/Changes to the Agenda:**

John Benchoff, President, asked if anyone had any changes or additions to the agenda. The Director, Kaye Robucci, requested two items be added under "Correspondence" – MAEO, Agenda, January 15, 2015, Memo, Release of voting equipment. As pursuant to the Bylaws of Washington County Board of Elections, Article 3, Section 3.3(A)3.

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### Correspondence

- A. MAEO Agenda - Board Meeting, January 15, 2015. The meeting will be held at the Howard County Board of Elections.
- B. Memo from Linda Lamone, State Administrator – release of voting equipment.

### Reports

- A. Meeting with Shafiq Satterfield, Regional Manager – Kaye Robucci, Director.
  - 1. The Director reported on her meeting with Shafiq Satterfield, SBE, Regional Manager. Several issues were discussed:
    - a. New voting system - Election System and Software Company (ES&S) is reported to have received the contract for new voting system. But the equipment we will be getting is not the full system we saw during the voting system demonstrations. There will be only one ballot marking device in each polling place. This will be geared toward the visually impaired voters. But any voter could use it and this could cause a backup of voters standing in line to use the ballot marking device.
    - b. Will there be a reserve of units somewhere in the State? Yes, there will be a pool of extra machines at the State warehouse.
    - c. There is nothing that can be done about the selection. The State Board has selected the type of equipment for the new voting system.
    - d. There will be one Optical Scan unit per polling place and voting booths equal to the number of touch screen units we had with DRE's. The voting booths will be on a separate contract, not part of the original contract with ES&S.
  - 2. Allegations of Vote Flipping across the State with AccuVote Touch Screens. SBE received about 100 complaints during the general election and 12 machines were taken out of service. SBE will pull these units and test them for possible calibration problems. AccuVote Touch Screens will be stored at a warehouse in case we have to use them for a special election in 2015.
  - 3. Post Election Maintenance is to be started as soon as the equipment is released by SBE. There will be new procedures for removing encryption and archiving the history on the machines. The Director requested 3 lifters to assist in the process.
  - 4. There are 5 carts, currently being used that were purchase by Washington County – we will be keeping them.
- B. Disability Fair – Sharon Mackereth, Deputy Director.

The Deputy Director reported on the Disability Fair, October 27, 2014, at Robinwood Professional Center that was coordinated by Peggy Martin, Resource Development. There were approximately 25 exhibitors – demonstrating services and medical items used by the disabled. Election judge, Dennis Hockensmith, assisted in the demo of the AccuVote Touch Screen Voting System used by the visually impaired voters.

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- C. Republican Club Meeting, November 19, 2014 – Carroll Earp, Vice President, and Kaye Robucci, Director.

The Director reported on her presentation to the Republican Club. Ginger Bigelow, President, of the club requested Kaye Robucci, Director, to attend the meeting and speak for about 20 minutes on –“How the election went”, “Vote Flipping” and “Voter Turnout”. Voter registration information was handed out and Kaye – provided information on our training of election judges, Absentee Voting, L&A testing of the equipment, Early Voting turnout, and other topics of interest. The meeting was attended by about 25 members. Carroll Earp, Board of Elections, Vice President and Sharon Mackereth, Deputy Director, also attended.

### Old Business

- A. Meeting with County Commissioners, schedule for January, 2015.

The Board agreed that we need to start the process of inviting the County Commissioners to a luncheon to be held in the second floor conference room. Along with the Commissioners, we should invite Greg Murray, County Administrator; Jim Sterling, Director of Facilities; John Martirano, County Attorney; Rob Slocum, Public Works.

The Director will contact the Commissioner's office to be placed on the agenda for January or February 2015. There will be two new Commissioners LeRoy Myers and William Wivell.

When they are here for the luncheon we will have their undivided attention to discuss those topics of critical interest to us:

- Election Workers – Increase Pay, offer Administrative Leave to county employees to work as election judges, and new voting system.
- Early Voting – where?
- New office with all areas combined.

- B. Aspiring to Serve Facility, schedule date to visit. Bill Shank is the contact.

The Board discussed the space at the Aspiring to Serve Facility on W. Franklin St. The Director will contact Bill Shank, to set a date and time to visit the facility for consideration of a complete office location. The space being considered is not on the ground floor, but there is an elevator and there would be a rent payment.

- C. Early Voting, Issues and Comments.  
The Board discussed the following topics:

Roger Schlossberg, Attorney, brought to the attention of the Board an incident that he personally saw a father voting for his special needs daughter. The girl became distressed and the father went over, voted her ballot and cast it. How should this have been handled? The daughter is not under court order guardianship for mental disability and a Voter Assistance Form was completed.

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- A new facility location is our main topic we want to discuss with the County Commissioners. Question – “Are we talking about a permanent space for Early Voting or a facility to house the whole office, warehouse area, training area, and Early Voting?”
- We have had three Early Voting cycles with three different locations. There is no wonder voters do not know where the early voting polling place is located. The State requires a specimen ballot be sent to every registered voter. The Specimen Ballot mailed during 2014, had a map to the Early Voting Site. How can we encourage voters to look at their Specimen Ballot? Early Voting on Saturday and Sunday is a waste of time and funds.
- The Director and Deputy Director discussed the use of two teams of workers (each working 4 days of Early Voting) instead of new workers every day. A new voting system will weed out some workers who are not efficient. Kaye and Sharon will also review their current list of election workers. We could get better workers if the County Commissioners offered administrative leave to County employees. Kaye Robucci, Director, will contact John Montirano, County Attorney, to keep him up on what we are proposing. Our voter turnout should be getting higher in percentage, instead of such low numbers. Roger Schlossberg, Attorney, is interested in age group of voters.

### D. Election Day, Issues and Comments.

We need a better quality of chief judges and an increase in pay might be an incentive. Suggestion was made to do a survey with the chief judges and Techs for feedback. Our training procedures will change after getting a new voting system and we might require fewer tech judges. SBE has requested information on what we pay our workers. The Director stated that the general election paper work looked pretty good.

### E. Christmas Party, Wednesday, December 10, 2014, 6PM at the Fireside Restaurant.

## New Business

### A. FY16 Budget, increase pay for Election Workers?

Pay increase to the election workers might entice a better quality of workers. Possible pay increase rate – Chief Judge - \$250, Check-In Judge/Unit Judge - \$200. This should be a MAEO conference topic.

A letter sent to County Commissioner, President, Terry Baker, was discussed. The letter was from a veteran chief judge. His concern was, having to work shorthanded on election day. He requested a pay increase.

### B. Possibility of open Senate Seat (George Edwards).

Kaye Robucci, Director, informed the Board of an article in “The Herald-Mail” newspaper. State Senator, George C. Edwards, could be selected for the secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources by Gov.-elect Larry Hogan.

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This would create an open seat for State Senate District 1. The Republican Central Committees for Garrett, Allegany and Washington Counties would have to send a list of names to the Governor for appointment. Elected County Commissioner, LeRoy Myers, and Elected Delegate-1C Michael McKay, were mentioned as a possible appointees.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

John Benchoff, President, asked for a motion to proceed into an Executive Session. Carroll Earp so moved to close the regularly scheduled monthly meeting and convene into an Executive Session at 3:42 PM; Bill Blazes seconded the motion. There was a unanimous approval.

During the Executive Session, John Benchoff asked for a motion to accept the minutes from September 9, 2014, Executive Session. Carroll Earp made motion to accept as submitted; Bill Blazes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Re-convene the regular meeting:**

At 3:50 PM, Carroll Earp made a motion to end the Executive Session and re-convene into the regular monthly meeting; Bill Blazes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Members Remarks**

The Board members inquired about applying for Board of Election seats for a new term. The Director will inquire when the deadline is.

### **Scheduling of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Washington County Board of Elections will be held on January 13, 2015. The location is Washington County Board of Elections, 35 W. Washington St. Room 101, Hagerstown, MD; as pursuant to the Bylaws of the Washington County Board of Elections, Article 3, Section 3.3(A)8.

### **Distributed Information**

Absentee Canvass Minutes 2014

### **Adjournment:**

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Tammy Downin made a motion to adjourn at 4:00 PM. Carroll Earp seconded the motion. There was a unanimous acclamation of approval. As pursuant to the Bylaws of Washington County Board of Elections, Article 3, Section 3.3(A)10.

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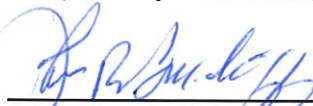
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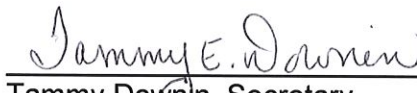
The Bylaws, with advice of counsel, shall follow the requirements of the Open Meetings Act as specified under Title 10, Subtitle 5 of the State Government Article.

Compiled by Sharon C. Mackereth  
Election Deputy Director, I

Respectfully Submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Benchoff, Board President

1/13/15  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tammy Downin, Secretary

1/13/15  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date