

Special Board Meeting Minutes

**WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTION
June 26, 2012**

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

Present:

Board

John Benchoff, President
Bruce Field, Member
William Blazes, Member
Roger Schlossberg, Attorney

Staff

Kaye Robucci, Election Director

John Benchoff called the meeting to order at 2:08PM. Carroll Earp, Member, and Tammy Downin, Member, were absent. Carroll Earp and Tammy Downin had both submitted their comments regarding the agenda items. There was a quorum present

The Special Meeting was called to discuss the current polling locations at Chewsville Community Center (18-1) and the lobby of South Hagerstown High School (10-2).

South Hagerstown High School (10-2):

In 2011 the polling location was moved from the Gymnasium to the Lobby of South Hagerstown High School to allow the election workers the ability to setup the voting equipment at a reasonable time on Monday night prior to the election. During the 2012 Primary Election, it was determined that the lobby is inaccessible and the numerous windows cause a glare on the voting units. On June 21, John Benchoff, Carroll Earp, Bruce Field, Kaye Robucci, Sharon Mackereth and Chief Judge, Danny Rohrer, met with Mr. Ike Williams, Principal of Antietam Academy, and Mr. Mark Mills, Director of Maintenance and Operations for the Board of Education, to discuss the possibility of relocating District 10-2 to Antietam Academy. After a survey of the facility and further discussion, those present and Mr. Mills concurred that the best solution would be to keep the polling location at South Hagerstown High School but to return to using the gymnasium. Mr. Mills will review the athletic schedule and the availability of the gymnasium for use on the Monday evening prior to the Election. Kaye Robucci spoke with Mark Mills, on June 26, and was informed that the gymnasium will be available for use by the election workers after 6:00 PM on the Monday prior to the Election. For the 2012 General Election and all future elections, the polling location for District 10-2 will be the gymnasium of South Hagerstown High School. Voter Notification Cards will be sent to all voters in that district and a letter will be sent to Mr. Mark Mills thanking him for his assistance and confirming exclusive use of the gymnasium after 6:00 PM on the Monday evening prior to the election.

Chewsville Community Center (18-1):

The Board discussed the following complaints regarding the Chewsville Community Center:

- Election Workers are not permitted to setup on Monday prior to the election
- Difficult to accomplish setup in timely fashion on Election morning
- Gravel parking lot
- No hot water in the kitchen and restrooms
- Drain in kitchen is disconnected
- Little to no heat

Bethel United Methodist Church in Chewsville would allow us to use their facility as a polling place. John Benchoff, Carroll Earp, Bruce Field, Kaye Robucci, and Sharon Mackereth visited Bethel United Methodist Church on June 21, 2012. Pastor Bill Warehime and Mary Forrest showed them the proposed voting location and a survey was conducted. The facility would provide an ideal location (only ½ mile from previous polling place), large voting room, barrier-free construction, ample parking and the ability to setup on Monday prior to the election.

The Board further discussed the benefit and detriment of moving the polling place to the Church prior to the 2012 General Election. Would it cause too much confusion to the voters? The Board agreed that substantial signs must be posted at the Chewsville Community Center and to pay the Chewsville Community Center their rental fee for allowing us to post the signs. The Board also agreed that there will always be people who complain.

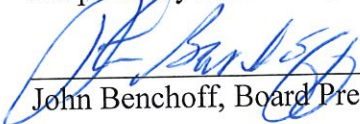
Bruce Field made a motion to move the District 18-1 polling location from the Chewsville Community Center to Bethel United Methodist Church; Bill Blazes seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Bruce Field made a motion to adjourn at 3:00 PM; Bill Blazes seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Compiled by Kaye Robucci
Election Director, I

Respectfully Submitted,



John Benchoff, Board President

7/10/12
Date



Tammy Downin, Secretary

7/13/12
Date