



MINUTES

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS July 7, 2014

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

Present:

Board

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

Staff

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

Visitor

Stephen J. Showe, Republican Central Committee

John Benchoff, President, called the meeting to order at 2:31 PM; as pursuant to the Bylaws of Washington County Board of Elections, Article 3, Section 3.2(A)1. There was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes of June 10, 2014:

John Benchoff asked if the Board had any corrections or modifications to the minutes of June 10, 2014, Board of Elections meeting. Tammy Downin made a motion to approve the minutes; Bruce Field seconded. There was a unanimous acclamation, as pursuant to the Bylaws of Washington County Board of Elections, Article 3, Section 3.3(A)2.

Addition/Changes to the Agenda:

As pursuant to the Bylaws of Washington County Board of Elections, Article 3, Section 3.3(A)3. None.

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Correspondence

None.

Reports

None.

Old Business:

A. Early Voting – comments/suggestions

Washington County Early Voting percentage was tied with Allegany County for the lowest turnout in the State. Some complaints about Early Voting from the voters were – bad location, out of the way, not a convenient place. The facility had plenty of space and the actual set up was great – except for the tiles in the floor. Voters could trip on the screws in the floor tiles. Bill Blazes, Board member, had a complaint about how the machines were setup. We will slant the machines towards the walls. The setup will be the same in the polling room for the General Election. (With the recommended change)

The Director, Kaye Robucci, has contracted with the Community Action Council (CAC) to have the shuttle again for 8 days during the General Election. We are considering putting up a sign at the Transfer Station on W. Franklin St. regarding Early Voting transportation. What other ways can we get Early Voting information out to the voters? Suggestions were: articles in the newspaper, Antietam Cable spot a PSA – for three weeks.

We hope to see a better turnout for the General Election in November.

Bester Elementary School used for Districts 17-1 and 17-2 had issues with the floor covering used for the new gymnasium floor. It was not taped down and could have caused a voter to fall. The school has to decide how serious they are at protecting the new floor. HCC has mats that cover the floor and are taped down – John Benchoff suggested it to the Bester Elementary representatives. We will require the protective covering to be taped down for the general election due to potential tripping risk.

B. Election Day – comments/suggestions

1. Need for more election workers –

We need more election judges for the General Election. Hopefully the judges who were unable to work because of vacations will return to their old posts.

Bruce Field, Board Member, suggested contacting a group at Boonsboro High School called "We the People". These are high school seniors who are interested in community involvement. Jim Warner, who is on the Republican Central Committee, is the person we need to contact.

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Suggestion was made to talk with the County Commissioners again about granting County employees Administrative Leave to be off of work on Election Day and work the polling places as judges. We need to discuss some talking points to present to the County Commissioners on election matters. Kaye will request time during an August meeting for the Board to go before the County Commissioners. We should also contact the Board of Education for recruiting teachers. We cannot compare 2012 Presidential General to this upcoming election.

2. Polling Places:

- Bester Elementary School gymnasium floor. (discussed above under Old Business (A)).
- Potomac Towers (additional room) the additional space for the polling area, does not have a doorway that accommodates the larger wheel chairs. The judges are in need of a card table, we should contact building management.
- 10-1 (return to E. Russell Hicks) – moving back to E. Russell Hicks Middle School for the 2014 General Election.
- Potomac Heights (return to multi-purpose room) – moving back to the multi-purpose room for the 2014 General Election.

3. Campaign signs & removal issues at (7-2) and private places (26-1):

The Board of Education does have set guidelines for the setting up and removal of campaign signs. Should we accept these guidelines for all other polling places to follow? This issue came up at several polling places.

Board of Education policy is - "...Political signage shall not be placed or displayed on school property until after 7:00 PM the day before the Election Day. Political signage shall be removed no later than 6:00 AM on the morning immediately after Election Day", this will be discussed at our August meeting. Election workers should be instructed to establish the "100ft. No Electioneering Zone" the night before. That way the candidates will know where they may place their signs the night before.

C. Picnic

The office picnic will be held at the home of Bruce and Linda Field on Wednesday, July 30, 2014 at 6:00 PM.

New Business:

A. Election Worker Refresher Training

The State Board of Elections has informed us that we are required to have a second training session for all judges working the 2014 General Election. The schedule for this training has not been setup at this time.

The Board discussed several ideas in presenting this training –

- Shorter time period – maybe 2 hours
- Have the equipment setup
- Schedule by precinct rather than letting it be a free for all – walk-in
- Present it like a mock election.
- Chief Judges – Provisional ballot procedures.

Executive Session

Adjournment of Regular meeting:

At this time 3:03 PM, Tammy Downin made a motion to adjourn this regularly scheduled Board Meeting and convene into an Executive Session; Bill Blazes seconded the motion. There was a unanimous acclamation.

Re-convene the Regular Meeting:

At 3:40 PM, Carroll Earp made a motion to end the Executive Session and re-convene into the regular monthly meeting; Bruce Field seconded the motion. There was a unanimous acclamation.

Members Remarks

Scheduling of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Washington County Board of Elections will be held on August 12, 2014, at 2:00 PM. 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

None.

