

MINUTES
WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTION
January 14, 2003
35 W. Washington Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740
240-313-2050

Present: Board
 Marianne Schneider, Democratic Member
 Charles Mobley, Jr., Republican Member
 Eileen Wiggins, Democratic Alternate
 Dorothy Waters, Republican Alternate

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

Marianne Schneider called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. Richard Coss, Board President, and Roger Schlossberg, Attorney, were absent. In the absence of Richard Coss, Marianne Schneider assumed the chair. There was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes of December 10, 2002: Marianne Schneider asked if the board had any corrections or modifications to the minutes of the December 10, 2002 board meeting.

Charles Mobley recommended the following amendment (amendment in bold).

Page 3 – New Business

B. Notice of Intent to file complaint by James Devine

Charles Mobley made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; Eileen Wiggins seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Approval of Minutes of Closed Meeting, December 10, 2002: Marianne Schneider asked if the board had any corrections or modifications to the minutes of the December 10, 2002 Closed Meeting. Charles Mobley recommended several amendments. Charles Mobley made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; Eileen Wiggins seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Approval of Minutes of November 5, 2002: Dorothy Waters made a motion to table the approval of the minutes until the February board meeting; Marianne Schneider seconded the motion and all were in favor.

A very nice thank you was received from Roy Myers thanking Sherrie Bonebrake for her assistance with a Public Service Request.

Addition/Changes to the Agenda: Marianne Schneider called for any additions or changes to the agenda. Dorothy Kaetzel asked that the correspondence between Judy Arnold and Roger Schlossberg be included under correspondence. There were no other requested changes to the Agenda.

Correspondence:

A. Memo from Judy Arnold

The Board discussed the memo from Judy Arnold regarding the City of Hagerstown vs. Washington County.

Correspondence:

B. Release of Voting Equipment

Memo from Linda Lamone, Administrator SBE, announcing the release of the voting equipment from the November general election.

C. Provisional Judge Reimbursement

Washington County received \$4,280.00 in reimbursement from the State. This was the cost of 17 additional judges and training for 44 provisional judges.

D. 2002 Local Board Minutes

Chart of the 2002 local board minutes was distributed.

E. Minutes of the December 19, 2002 Directors Meeting
The Board discussed the following points:

1. HAVA – Help American Vote Act. Need to provide a toll free phone number or link on website so voters can see if their provisional ballot was accepted and, if not, the reason for rejection.
2. SBE is considering introducing legislation that would require all campaign fund reports to be filed with SBE.
3. Make up of local boards will change since the Governor-elect is Republican.
4. Implementation of new voting systems for 17 counties to begin January 1, 2003.

F. Recounts

Tim Augustine prepared a report of the recounts conducted in Allegany, Washington and Calvert Counties.

G. Thank you letters

Thank you notes were sent to Patricia Matsko and Stuart Harvey for assisting with the recount.

Reports:

A. Court Case – City of Hagerstown vs. Washington County Election Board

Dorothy Kaetzel received a Writ of Summons and is requested to file a written response by January 30, 2003. In the absence of Roger Schlossberg, Charles Mobley reported on the case. Roger Schlossberg believes the case will probably go further and take time to get through the court system.

B. City of Hagerstown Elections

The Board discussed the current practice of the election board doing the work for the City of Hagerstown elections. At the February Board meeting, the Board will discuss the clarification of responsibilities and the City of Hagerstown Election Board.

Old Business:

A. Cost of Primary Election

Cost of Primary Election was \$4.61 per voter. Increase due to extra pay for election workers and less voter participation.

B. Cost of Recount

The Board discussed the cost of the recount. The estimate of the recount was \$2,480.00. The actual cost was \$6,611.25 and was sent to Ralph S. Tyler, Hogan & Hartson L.L.P. for payment. Hogan & Hartson does not agree with the amount of compensation for the attorney. Dorothy Kaetzel will prepare a letter to Mr. Tyler reiterating the need for payment and referencing Article 33:12-107 which states that the petitioner is responsible for the cost of the recount. It was unknown at the time of the estimate for the recount, that Mr. Taylor would challenge the requirement for a bond, thus requiring Roger Schlossberg to travel to Annapolis. Dorothy Kaetzel will also talk to Timothy Augustine and look at the COMAR Regulations. All three board members will sign the letter.

New Business:

A. Budget FY'04

1. The Board discussed the FY'04 Budget and recommended the following changes (in bold):

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
500005 Attorney	4,500 + 500
Litigation	10,000
505160 Sub Board Meetings	2,400
Sub Extra Meeting	1,000

2. The Board increased the hourly wage for substitute board members from \$10.00 to \$20.00 at election time.
3. Dorothy Kaetzel pointed out that the cost of the Lease/Purchase Payments for the new voting system will cost approximately \$300,000 for FY'05 & FY'06 and \$150,000 for FY'07. The County Commissioners are aware of the cost of the new voting system.

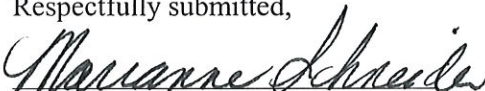
Scheduling of the Next Meeting

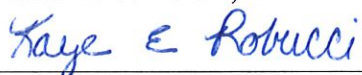
The next meeting of the Washington County Board of Election will be February 11, 2003 at 2:00 PM at the board office.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Board at this meeting, a motion was made by Eileen Wiggins; seconded by Dorothy Waters to adjourn at 3:45 PM. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,


Marianne Schneider, Vice-President



Kaye E. Robucci
Election Deputy Director I

AGENDA

Meeting to be held Tuesday, January 14, 2002 at the Election Office - 2:00 PM

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

RECORD THOSE PRESENT

MINUTES

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

CORRESPONDENCE

memo. Between Judy + Roger

Memo - SBE - Release of Voting Machines

Memo - to SBE - Provisional Judge Reimbursement

2002 Local Board Minutes - Schedule

Minutes - Directors Meeting

Memo - SBE - Recounts - 2002 Gubernatorial Gen. Elec.

Letters to Pat Matsko and Stuart Harvey

REPORTS

Court Case - City of Hag. vs Wash. Co. Board of Elections - Roger

OLD BUSINESS

Estimated Cost Pri. Elec.

Cost of Recount

NEW BUSINESS

FY '04 Budget *Attorney fee*