

## MINUTES

### WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS February 14, 2006

Present:

Board

Charles Mobley, Jr., President  
Eileen Wiggins, Democratic Member  
John Barr, Republican Member  
John Benchoff, Democratic Alternate  
Clyde Tate, Republican Alternate  
Gregory Bannon, Attorney  
G. Clair Baker, Board Attorney

Staff

Kaye E. Robucci, Election Deputy Director, I  
Sharon C. Mackereth, Election Supervisor II

Charles Mobley called the meeting to order at 2:07 PM. Dorothy Kaetzel, Election Director, I, was absent. There was a quorum present.

Charles Mobley introduced Tamara Jo Derr, new member of our staff.

**Approval of Minutes of January 10, 2006**

Charles Mobley asked if the Board had any corrections or modifications to the minutes of the January 10, 2006 Board Meeting. There being no changes, the minutes were approved as submitted.

**Additions/Changes to the Agenda:**

Kaye Robucci requested the MAEO meeting information, Petitions, and Personnel Policies, be discussed under Correspondence and Calendar Updates under Old Business and MAEO reservations under New Business.

Charles Mobley read a letter of resignation from Gregory C. Bannon, Board Attorney, who is resigning for personal reasons. Mr. Mobley introduced Clair Baker as our new Board Attorney.

**Correspondence:**

- A. The Registrar – February 3, 2006, Volume 1, Number 10
- B. Upgrade of Diebold Voting System

The Diebold Touch Screen Voting Units will be upgraded at the warehouse on March 20, 21 and 22, 2006.

C. Letter from the Funkstown Fire Hall

The Funkstown Fire Hall replied to our request for use of their facility as a polling place. A. Larry Iseminger, President, informed us that the rental fee is \$200.00 per event. Mr. Mobley reminded the Board that they passed a motion in May 2005, not to pay more than \$50.00 for rental of any new polling place. Mr. Mobley said he would go back and talk with Mr. Iseminger about possibly reconsidering the fee. (An alternative is to stay where we are. But, we know the School Board wants us out of the school.) John Benchoff inquired about Funkstown Legion, but because of State Law, we can not use a place that serves alcohol. Various other places were considered, but we will wait until we hear again from Mr. Iseminger.

D. E-mailed correspondence from MAEO

E. MAEO meeting information was given to the Board.

F. Petition Circulators

This memo is from the Attorney Generals office which stated, that to prohibit the payment of individuals for gathering signatures, is unconstitutional.

G. Personnel Policies from the State

SBE sent the office updated sections of the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual. Mr. Mobley called attention to the State Holidays and the fact that this office is in a County Building. Administrative Leave is available on those days that this building is closed for county holidays.

**Reports**

A. Directors meeting

Kaye Robucci gave a report on the Directors' Train the Trainer Meeting, held January 30; 2006 dealing with ideas in training election workers.

New legislation passed, that was discussed –

- 1) Early Voting – the Tuesday - Saturday before Election, we would prefer the location to be in our office. That way we can keep a handle on it.
- 2) Provisional ballots – will use the same procedures as in the 2004 Primary Election.

- 3) Absentee Ballots on demand. – a voter can request an absentee ballot without having to provide a reason.
- 4) The Paper Trail for electronic voting (Diebold Touch Screen Voting System) - legislation that requires a paper receipt to be given to each voter once they cast their ballot. Also, the possibility of simply not using the Diebold Touch Screen Voting System. Charles Mobley, Eileen Wiggins and John Benchoff sent e-mails to the delegation with little or NO response.

This office is very pleased with the touch screen system. There is no way the system can be tampered with.

B. Registration figures –

Mr. Mobley gave a report on voter registration figures and projections. There is always a jump in registration right before an election and also during a high school registration drive.

C. New Board Attorney

Greg Bannon introduced Clair Baker, who will be replacing Mr. Bannon as our Board Attorney.

D. Retirement

Judy Ritter, Wicomico County, and Brenda Williams, Queens Anne's County, are retiring this year. They will be taking years of election knowledge with them and will be truly missed at our conferences.

E. HAVA Grant Funds

Mr. Mobley reported on the research of the HAVA Grant Funds for use in making improvements at the Big Pool polling place. The response from Jaimie Jacobs, SBE, was that the funds are not used for major updates on privately owned polling places.

**OLD BUSINESS**

A. Polling place changes

The Board discussed a new polling place for 26-1. The School Board wants us to stop using Hickory Elementary School. St. Joseph Catholic Church was suggested. Mr. Mobley has already surveyed the room they said we could use, but it was too small. Eileen Wiggins inquired about Holy Trinity on Oak Ridge Drive, but that location is out of the polling district. The Halfway Fire Hall was also checked and it was decided that it was too small.

Mr. Mobley and John Benchoff will be doing a survey at the Vo-Tech Center on Oak Ridge Dr., Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> and Clear Spring Middle School on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Eileen Wiggins and Mr. Mobley will be doing Leitersburg Fire Hall Community Center on the Leitersburg Pike on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

B. Election Workers

Letters to Election Workers were sent to see who is still interested in working in the upcoming elections. We are still in need of workers.

Ms. Robucci informed the Board of a prohibition against family members of candidates not being able to work as Election Workers. We will notify those workers that this would effect.

C. Calendar updates were distributed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A. Court Summons

Ms. Robucci informed the Board that Charles Mobley, Dorothy Kaetzel, and Sherrie Bonebrake have been summoned to court, regarding the Charley Baker/Roger Dean Weber case. It has been brought to Ms. Robucci's attention that she will also be receiving a summons. The City of Hagerstown is bringing the case to court on March 22, 2006.

B. MAEO Reservations

The MAEO Conference is May 7, 8 and 9, 2006 at The Wisp in Garrett County, Maryland. Ms. Robucci needs to know who will be attending and how long they will be staying. The Attorney, Mr. Baker, will let Ms. Robucci know if he will be able to attend. Ms. Robucci also needs to know who will be going on the excursion to Swallow Falls and jacket sizes.

The Board discussed the scheduled monthly meeting for May, and it being during the MAEO Conference, it was decided that it would be held on May 16, 2006.

**MEMBERS REMARKS**

No remarks

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

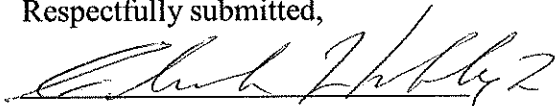
Charles Mobley made a motion to go into executive session at 3:21 PM; Eileen Wiggins seconded the motion and all were in favor. John Barr made a motion to go back into regular session and Eileen Wiggins seconded. Regular session resumed at 3:25 PM.


The next meeting of the Washington County Board of Elections will be held March 14, 2006 at 2:00 pm at the Board Office.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time. Eileen Wiggins made a motion to adjourn at 3:34 PM; John Barr seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

 3/14/06  
Charles L. Mobley, Jr., Board President      Date

 2/24/06  
Sharon C. Mackereth, Election Supervisor II      Date