



MINUTES

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

February 12, 2019

35 W. Washington Street

Hagerstown, MD 21740

240-313-2050

Present:

Board:

Bruce Field, President

Tammy Downin, Vice-President

Jim Schultheis, Secretary

William Blazes, Member

Martin Lumm, Member

Staff:

Kaye Robucci, Election Director II

Barry Jackson, Election Deputy Director II

Guests:

Matthew Breeding, Republican Central Committee

Mary Anne Keyser, Democratic Central Committee

Peter Perini, Democratic Central Committee

Connie Mozingo

President Bruce Field called the meeting to order at 3:01PM at the Washington County Board of Elections Office, 35 W. Washington Street, Suite 101, Hagerstown MD 21740. Board Attorney Roger Schlossberg was absent. Vice President Tammy Downin arrived to the meeting at approximately 3:15PM. There was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes of January 8, 2019:

Tammy Downin requested the following edits in an email to Kaye Robucci and Barry Jackson:

In the header on pages 2 through 5, change "December 11, 2018" to "January 8, 2019."

On page 4 – Executive Session after the attendance – Topics to be discussed , add "staffing of the canvassing process."

Jim Schultheis moved to accept the minutes as amended, Bill Blazes seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda:

Table New Business, I. Canvass Minutes for March meeting.

Correspondence:

- I. Directors Meeting Minutes, January 17, 2019.
 - A. Governor released his budget on January 18, 2019.
 - B. Inventory audit will be conducted April 1 – June 30
 - C. Canvassing Minutes are due at SBE. Draft Minutes are acceptable.
 - D. Two-Factor authentication tokens have been distributed to all LBEs.
 - E. ERIC reports will be arriving soon.
 - F. Status of new pollbooks. ES&S has delivered a prototype pollbook to SBE and it is being tested.
 - G. Next Director's Meeting is February 21, 2019

Reports:

- I. Election Director
 - A. Personnel - Discuss in Executive Session.
 - B. Meetings & Trainings
 - 1. EW Committee: N/A
 - 2. Director's Meeting: February 21, 2019
 - 3. Modernizing Absentee Ballot Opening Procedures (MABOP): Barry Jackson reported that he had a meeting with Nikki Charlson, Jared Demarinis, and Erin Perrone of the State Board of Elections (SBE) on February 5, 2019, where they asked that the proposed process of opening and canvassing absentee ballots be modified. SBE is not opposed to opening absentee ballots before Election Day, but they do not want them to be canvassed and scanned until on Election Day. The MABOP committee will meet on February 13, 2019 to discuss such modifications.
 - C. Legislative Update – Barry Jackson reported on the following legislation currently being considered by the Maryland General Assembly:
 - 1. HB79/SB461 – Would change registration requirement for the number of Early Voting sites in each county. In Washington County, 100,000 registered voters would require three Early Voting sites.
 - 2. HB119 – Permanent Absentee Ballot List
 - 3. HB172 – Changes the time to be open on voter registration deadline from 9PM to 5PM.

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4. HB237 – Changes start time at Early Voting gubernatorial General Election from 10AM to 8AM.
 5. HB252/SB936 – Creates a program for detention centers and prisons similar to nursing homes.
 6. HB269 – Would require prepaid postage on absentee ballot return envelopes.
 7. HB286/SB449 – Same Day Registration and address change at polling places.
 8. HB322/SB606 – Changes the words “Absentee Voting” to “Vote by Mail.”
 9. HB382 – Would require LBEs to give status updates to voters who vote by absentee or provisional ballot.
 10. HB423/SB934 – Voter registration in high schools. This would designate certain individuals, such as a guidance counselor, to be a voter registration coordinator in each high school, who would be responsible for voter registration drives, collecting applications, and returning them to the local boards of elections.
 11. HB530/SB489 – Allows unaffiliated voters to affiliate with a party at Primary Early Voting.
 12. HB565/SB363 – Would require move to all Ballot Marking Devices, instead of voting booths statewide.
 13. HB569 – Removes requirement for local board of elections officials to be registered to vote in Maryland.
 14. HB577 – Requires counties and municipalities to provide administrative leave to their employees who work as election judges on Election Day.
 15. HB578/SB782 – Requires reporting of precinct results at Early Voting. This would require hundreds of ballot styles to keep track of each party and precinct at the Primary Election.
 16. HB706/SB919 – Removes web delivery absentee ballots, except in the case of overseas voters.
 17. HB747 – Links all state agencies to the online voter registration system.
 18. HB992 – Proof of identity at polling place. Delegate Parrott’s bill.
 19. HB996/SB304 – Would require absentee ballot deposit boxes at each Early Voting site and at least at one polling place in each county.
 20. HB1328 – Gives local boards of elections authority to determine no electioneering zone at each precinct, between 25’ and 100’.
- D. Registration Statistics for January, 2019 were distributed to the Board
- E. Voting System Activities:
1. Post Election Maintenance – Will be completed in March.
- F. Candidate Information:
1. Filing began February 5, 2019 – No filings yet

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G. Projects

1. Process Sample Ballots
2. Prepare for Post Election Maintenance.

II. Attorney – N/A

Old Business:

- I. New location for the Office, Warehouse, Training and Early Voting
 - a. Marty Lumm reported that he and Barry Jackson met with Linda Spence, Andrew Eshelman, and Todd Moser on February 6 to go over available county and commercial properties that would meet the needs of the Election Board.
 - b. Barry Jackson attended the County Commissioner meeting on February 12 and reported that the Election Board's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Request was denied. Commissioner Keefer asked County Administrator Rob Slocum if leasing or purchasing was preferable to the county. Rob said that, previously, leasing was an attractive option, but the county would weigh all options. Commissioner Terry Baker then said it's time to do something for the Election Board, they've been patient, and if the commissioners continue to kick the can down the road, it'll be another four years and another set of county commissioners to deal with it. Commissioner Randy Wagner added that he agreed with Commissioner Baker that something needed to be done, but he recognized that it's all about money. Rob Slocum said that it was "incumbent" on the Election Board to find a property that suited them and present it to the Commissioners.
 - c. Jim Schultheis commented that we need the support of the central committees.
 - d. Bruce Field asked the staff to come up with at least three properties to look at that would meet our needs.
- II. Tri-Hosts for the 2019 MAEO Meetings
 - a. Received agenda and travel information from MAEO.
 - b. Rooms have been reserved for 11 attendees.
 - c. Kaye will let the Board know if additional help is needed for MAEO registrations.
- III. Early Voting Location(s) for 2020
 - a. Trying to reserve Hager Hall again for 2020.
 - b. Reached out to Community Volunteer Fire Department of Fairplay as a second site in south county.
- IV. FY20 Budget – Kaye Robucci reviewed the proposed budget with the board.

New Business:

- I. Canvass Minutes – tabled until March board meeting.

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- II. Meet with County Commissioners – Bruce Field said that we should not schedule a meeting with the County Commissioners until we have identified multiple viable properties.
- III. Manual Audit – moved to February 28th at 10:00AM
- IV. New Board Attorney – Bruce spoke with Roger Schlossberg about returning as board attorney. The Board agreed to speak to multiple candidates. Kaye will gather information from the other counties regarding the process and a MOU.

Members Remarks:

Bill Blazes doesn't like the 3:00PM start.

Marty Lumm mentioned a letter to the editor in the Herald-Mail complaining about Neil Parrott signs all over the county. He asked if the Board of Elections has any influence in removing the signs. Tammy Downin said we are not an enforcement agency. Kaye Robucci said as long as the signs are on private property, they cannot be removed. Jim Schultheis said this is a question for the board attorney.

Scheduling of Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Washington County Board of Elections will be held on Tuesday, March 12th, 2019 at 3:00PM. The location is Washington County Board of Elections Office, 35 W. Washington Street, Hagerstown, MD; as pursuant to the Bylaws of the Washington County Board of Elections, Article 3, Section 3.3(A) 8.

Distributed Information:

- I. January Registration Statistics

Adjournment:

There being no other business to come before the Board at this time, Bruce Field called for a motion to adjourn the regular session and convene the Executive Session. Tammy Downin made this motion at 4:48PM. Jim Schultheis seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

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Executive Session:

At 4:48PM, Tammy Downin moved to adjourn the Board of Canvassers and convene an Executive Session under State Government Article, § 10-508 (a) to discuss: (i) The appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction. The vote to close the regular session and go into closed session was as follows:

Motion By: Tammy Downin

Seconded By: Jim Schultheis

Vote to Close Session:

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Bruce Field	{ }	{ }	{X}	{ }
Tammy Downin	{X}	{ }	{ }	{ }
James Schultheis	{X}	{ }	{ }	{ }
Martin Lumm	{X}	{ }	{ }	{ }
William Blazes	{X}	{ }	{ }	{ }

Topics to be discussed were a personnel decision regarding contracted staff, and staffing of the canvassing process and how to improve it.

After the discussion was finished, Jim Schultheis made the motion to close the Executive Session at 5:35PM, Marty Lumm seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

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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 Barry Jackson
Deputy Election Director II

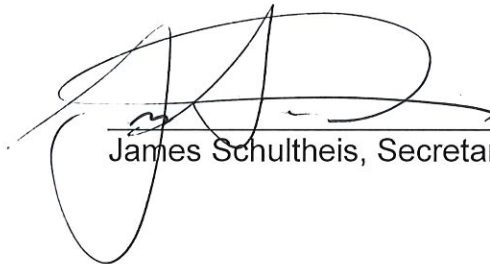
Respectfully Submitted,



Bruce Field, President

4/9/19

Date



James Schultheis, Secretary

4/9/19

Date