

PROCEEDINGS

**WASHINGTON COUNTY
BOARD OF ELECTIONS
November 14, 2000**

Present: Richard L. Coss, President
Charles Mobley, Republican Member
Marianne Schneider, Democratic Member
Eileen Wiggins, Democratic Alternate
Dorothy M. Waters, Republican Alternate
Roger Schlossberg, Attorney
Dorothy M. Kaetzel, Election Director II
Kaye E. Robucci, Election Deputy Director I
Charles Wagaman, Attorney for Town of Sharpsburg
Julie Greene, Herald Mail Reporter

Richard Coss called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. Marianne Schneider made a motion to close the meeting in accordance with Maryland State Government Code 10-508(a)(7) and (12); to obtain legal advice from counsel; Charles Mobley seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mr. Wagaman and Julie Greene excused themselves from the meeting while the Board convened in closed session.

At 2:15 PM the Board returned to open session with Mr. Wagaman and Julie Greene present.

Richard Coss, President, addressed the Board and public to explain that the Board would be suspending the rules of the meeting to address the issue at hand. Charles Mobley made a motion that Jeffrey I. Sheffler be removed from the voter registration rolls based on two felony convictions; Marianne Schneider seconded the motion and the Board discussed the matter further. Richard Coss called for a vote on the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried. Richard Coss directed Dorothy Kaetzel to send a letter to Mr. Sheffler informing him of the decision.

Roger Schlossberg went on to explain that by virtue of a clerical error and the absence of a criminal conviction report from the Clerk's office, the Election Board accepted the registration of Mr. Sheffler, thereby committing an additional clerical error. Mr. Sheffler's two felony convictions disqualify him as a registered voter under Article 33, 3-102(b)(1).

Marianne Schneider made a motion to send all the official information regarding the case to the State Prosecutor, Steven Montanarelli. Charles Mobley seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Charles Mobley made a motion to send a letter to the Town of Sharpsburg informing them of the Board's decision; Marianne Schneider seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Charles Wagaman indicated that the Town of Sharpsburg keeps their own registration records and that there is not a provision regarding disqualification due to criminal convictions.

Mr. Wagaman and Ms. Greene excused themselves from the meeting.

MINUTES: Marianne Schneider made a motion to correct the minutes of the October 10, 2000 Board meeting to read on page 3, that the absentee voting at the nursing homes would be conducted in October not November. Charles Mobley seconded the motion and all were in favor. Marianne Schneider made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 7, 2000 Organizational meeting of the Board of Canvassers. Charles Mobley seconded the motion and all were in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE: Minutes of the September 20, 2000 State Board Meeting were distributed.

OLD BUSINESS: The Christmas Party will be held Sunday, December 10, 2000 at 6:00 PM at the Fireside Restaurant.

NEW BUSINESS: We received many compliments on the new layout for dropping off supplies election night and the check out procedures upstairs. Senator Donald Munson called to express his appreciation to the Election Board and Staff for their hard work.

The Board discussed election day problems and concerns.

Polling Places

- 18-1 Chewsville Community Center - Kid's Voting had no place to set-up. They were finally allowed to use a separate room.
- 18-1 Chewsville Community Center - Complaint from Morris Lay that the room was left a mess. Morris Lay was asked to put his complaint in writing to the Board.
- 01-0 Sharpsburg Elementary School - They did not post the required information.
- 19-0 Keedysville Community Center - Polling area is too small. There is always a problem with having a phone available. Roger Schlossberg will see if there is another building available.
- 10-3 Eastern Elementary School - Need another binder and 2 more workers.
- 27-2 Paramount Elementary School - layout of room is unworkable with a large turnout.
- 21-1 Potomac Heights Elementary School - check-in tables are too close to doorway.

General Concerns

Replace the strapping tape with something that can be torn by hand

Some polling places are not using van accessible parking signs

Communications! - Major problem. We do not have good prompt links from polling places to office and office to polling places.

Suggestions:

- More dedicated phone lines
- Phone lines that are dedicated for "Questions concerning where to go vote". These questions could be addressed by individuals with a master list.
- Direct line from larger polling places to office
- Talk to Pete Loewenheim regarding what would be needed for additional lines when renovations begin for our new office.
- More public service announcements especially in regards to mailing of specimen ballot and that the polling place is listed on the address label.

Richard Coss thanked the Board and Staff for a job well done.

Marianne Schneider made a motion to adjourn at 3:51 PM; Charles Mobley seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Next meeting - December 12, 2000.

Respectfully submitted,

Kaye E. Robucci
Election Deputy Director I