

MINUTES
Wicomico County Board of Elections
345 Snow Hill Road, Salisbury, MD 21804
Wednesday, August 21, 2019

ATTENDEES: Brad Bellacicco, Board President, Republican Member
Joseph Collins, Republican Member
Catherine Keim, Republican Member
Katrina Purnell, Board Secretary, Democratic Member
Sharon Morris, Democratic Member
Peter Golba, Board Attorney
Anthony Gutierrez, Election Director
Dionne Church, Deputy Director

ABSENT: None

GUEST: None

The Wicomico County Board of Elections met Wednesday, August 21, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Public notice was given and the agenda was posted at the Board of Elections office the week prior to the meeting. This includes the required public notice when the Board is discussing possible changes to polling places.

Brad Bellacicco called the meeting to order, as there was a quorum present, and voluntarily led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Lord's Prayer.

Brad Bellacicco asked for approval of the July 17, 2019 minutes. Sharon Morris made the motion to approve the minutes with one revision; seconded by Joseph Collins, passed, unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The Director gave an update on facility repairs done recently, then showed the board a new ballot transfer bin to be used during Early Voting.

The State Board has a new policy on the use of the BMDs for 2020.

The staff is busy on tasks supporting the City of Salisbury November municipal election.

Sarah Myers is the new County Democratic Central Committee chair.

The Director asked the board to approve following the SBE policy of not providing labels for PSR requests; the board approved this.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was discussion concerning polling place locations, particularly regarding Powellville VFD. More information will be presented at the next meeting regarding Powellville, and the Board will be asked to vote on utilizing that location at that time. In addition, the Deputy Director presented pros and cons for options in Delmar during the 2020 Primary Election. Staff recommends Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Delmar. The Board will be asked to vote on this at the next meeting as well, following a complete survey of the site.

The Board reviewed the list of office job duties for full-time staff as provided by the Director; discussion followed.

There was discussion concerning the hiring of new staff. The Board requested ongoing information concerning the process, including via email. The Board also indicated they would like to be

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informed of which options are most cost effective. The Director expressed concern that delays in the process of hiring staff will impinge upon critical training time.

A motion was made by Sharon Morris to grant permission for the Director to contact SBE Human Resources to ascertain options for staffing; seconded by Joseph Collins, passed, unanimously.

A motion was made by Catherine Keim to grant permission to hire three staff positions, as done in previous elections, as either state contractual or county, pending cost, whichever is least expensive; seconded by Sharon Morris, passed, unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Director requested a motion to designate the office staff to attend the SBE Biennial Conference on Thursday, October 17. Sharon Morris made the motion to close the office on that day; seconded by Joseph Collins, passed, unanimously.

The Director announced that our office will host a regional voter registration training event from SBE on Thursday August 29, 2019, and stated that we would like to purchase lunch for the participants. Katrina Purnell made the motion to use funds to purchase lunch for participants; seconded by Catherine Keim, passed, unanimously. The Board stated that in the future, as long as there are funds available in the budget for such expenditures, formal approval is not needed.

The Director provided a monthly budget update, which was reviewed and discussed by the Board. Sharon Morris requested a copy of a strategic plan.

MISCELLANEOUS: None

MEMBERS TIME:

Sharon Morris asked about the Board's role following the upcoming 2020 Census. The Director explained that our office has no role in the federal census process. Once the census data is released, then we use that information for redistricting purposes. The Director reported that SBE's goal is to use the GIS interface in MDVOTERS statewide to help us with the 2022 redistricting process; currently, only Montgomery County uses it. The Board suggested that we provide information to the county ahead of time regarding how the 2022 redistricting activities will impact the FY2022 budget.

Katrina Purnell stated the need for timely dissemination of information.

CLOSED SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Brad Bellacicco announced the next scheduled meeting would be Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Bellacicco informed the Board that he will be unable to attend the September meeting, but will call in. He also informed the Board that he will be unable to attend the SBE Biennial Conference in October and submitted a letter requesting to be excused from the conference.

Catherine Keim made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Sharon Morris, passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

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Respectfully Submitted,

 9/23/2019
Brad Bellacico, Board President Date

 9/23/19
Bill Blockston Date