

**MINUTES**  
**Wicomico County Board of Elections**  
**345 Snow Hill Road, Salisbury, MD 21804**  
**Wednesday, April 15, 2020**

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

**ABSENT:** None

**GUESTS:** None

The Wicomico County Board of Elections met Wednesday, April 15, 2020 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. Additionally, a special public notice that, in compliance with the Governor's Order to prevent of spreading the COVID-19 virus, and in compliance with a directive from the State Board of Elections office, the board would not meet in-person but the public would have a way to call-in and listen to the meeting if they would like. No member of the public has contacted the office to obtain the call-in information for this morning's meeting

Brad Bellacicco, Board President, called the meeting to order, conducting a roll call of the board members and declared there was a quorum present. Mr. Bellacicco also voluntarily led the Lord's Prayer.

Brad Bellacicco asked for approval of the March 18, 2020 minutes. Katrina Purnell made the motion to approve the minutes with one correction; seconded by Joseph Collins, passed, unanimously.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT: (See Attached Copy)**

Monthly registration and statistical reports, as well as the quarterly statistical report and the monthly financial update were included in the mailing to Board members.

The Director informed the Board of current personnel matters, including the return of the acting Election Information System Specialist to her position of Data Application Specialist, as well as the status of the process of hiring two State contractual positions, which is now on hold, due to the present hiring freeze.

The roofers, having conducted a water test and presumably having determined the source of the leak, will be performing repairs when we are expected to have two consecutive days without rain.

It has been determined which election judges applied for unemployment. This information and discussion will be tabled until a future meeting.

There was extensive discussion regarding the overage in costs for the 2019 City of Salisbury election. Members expressed that this Board should remain outside of this matter as much as possible, and that a letter to this effect will be drafted by the Election Director. A motion was made by Sharon Morris that this correspondence will be sent to the Bob Culver, County Executive, with a copy to the City of Salisbury, stating: The Wicomico County Board of Elections conducted the 2019 City of Salisbury

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elections at their request and per our agreement to do so. A cost estimate was provided to the City of Salisbury. Following the election, the Board of Elections submitted the final bill for the election. Actual costs exceeded the estimate. By copy of this letter, we request that the City of Salisbury contact Wicomico County about handling the overage. The motion was seconded by Katrina Purnell, passed unanimously. The Election Director will send a draft of this letter to Board members and be prepared to field questions from both the City and County.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The Director sent copies of the Governor's renewed proclamation, as well as the plan issued by the State Board of Elections.

The Director encouraged Board members to view the live stream of the canvasses of the Special Election conducted by Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County.

There was extensive discussion concerning the process for the primary elections, as well as challenges presented. The Director will draft an email to the Board outlining the process as currently presented by SBE. In turn, Joseph Collins will draft a letter for the Board to send to SBE, outlining concerns. Concerns raised by the Board included the Board viewing the canvass process electronically rather than in person, and the issue of ballot harvesting. Concerning the latter, the Director will inquire of SBE and report back to the Board.

Katrina Purnell stressed the need for everyone to know processes, including how persons will be paid, before the election and canvass period is underway. The Board also raised the question of hazard pay for persons involved on site, as well as technology to verify signatures. Sharon Morris also suggested the possibility of using County Council chambers for extra space if needed. The Board also raised questions concerning deadlines for postmarks and receiving ballots, given the current stresses upon the USPS. The Director will make inquiries about these questions and report back to the Board.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

None.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

None.

**MEMBERS TIME:**

None.

**BOARD ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

There were no items for discussion.

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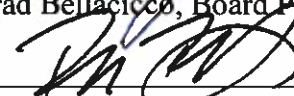
**ADJOURNMENT:**

Brad Bellacicco announced the next scheduled meeting would be Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Katrina Purnell made a motion to adjourn, passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

 5-22-20  
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Brad Bellacicco, Board President Date

 5/22/20  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Blockston, Recorder Date