

MINUTES
Wicomico County Board of Elections
345 Snow Hill Road, Salisbury, MD 21804
Wednesday, April 19, 2023

ATTENDEES: Brad Bellacicco, Board President, Republican Member
Katrina Purnell, Board Secretary, Democratic Member
Sharon Morris, Democratic Member
Joseph Collins, Republican Member
Carsten Wendlandt, Republican Member
Peter Golba, Board Attorney
Dionne Church, Election Director
Bill Blockston, Deputy Director
Veronica Fox, Election Program Assistant

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Marita Barnes
Susan "Susi" DuPont
Jane Reagan

The Wicomico County Board of Elections met Wednesday April 19, 2023 at 9:00 am.

Public notice was given and the agenda was posted at the Board of Elections office prior to the meeting.

Brad Bellacicco, Board President, called the meeting to order, and declared that there was a quorum present. The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Lord's Prayer.

Brad Bellacicco, Board President, asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 15, 2023 meeting of the Board of Elections. Sharon Morris made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Carsten Wendlandt, passed unanimously.

Changes/additions to the Agenda: Dionne Church requested that a closed session be added in order to discuss personnel.

ELECTION DIRECTOR'S REPORT: (See Attached Copy)

The monthly registration reports and financial report were provided to the Board.

The following items were highlighted from the Director's Report:

An enhanced security camera system has been requested and our office is applying for a security grant which will be submitted this week. FEMA is sponsoring this grant and it is similar to the one they sponsored last year.

April 10, 2023 was the last day of the Maryland General Assembly. The vote by mail preprocessing bill passed. The details of the bill will be reviewed in further detail but the preprocessing of ballots

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will be based on the number of mail-in ballots received and our ability to process the ballots in a timely manner. Results would not be posted before election day.

Our office can now receive payments for filing fees and liquor licenses by credit card with the new Point and Pay Credit Card Service.

Data Request forms have been updated to match the State forms.

There is a vacant contractual position, Election Program Assistant, which our office hopes to fill in June.

The Hebron Election was April 11, 2023 and the results have been posted and voter credit has been posted. Our office provided the voter register and supplied election judges and 2 office staff on election day.

The street files have been completed for the City of Salisbury Election, they were uploaded accurately and the City Clerk will certify.

Willards Election is May 9, 2023 and we will provide a precinct list.

We conducted voter outreach at the NAACP meeting held on Thursday, March 23, 2023 and we had a table at the Lower Shore Re-entry Job & Resource Fair, held on Thursday, April 6, 2023 to register voters and recruit election judges.

On Tuesday, May 2, 2023 we will have Voter Registration Volunteer training at the office for the Women's League who will be going to Delmar High School to register students.

Our office plans to recruit high school students to be election judges and they will choose either volunteer credit hours or judges pay.

The inventory process has been completed with no issues.

BOARD ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

No report but Peter Golba, Board Attorney received COMAR information he will review and notify the Board of any changes.

In addition, COMAR books are being prepared by staff and will be updated and distributed in June.

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OLD BUSINESS:

The proposed FY2023-2024 budget was reviewed by the Board. There were no questions or comments related to the proposed budget.

The MAEO Conference is Sunday, May 14, 2023 – Friday, May 19, 2023. There are some sessions on Monday, May 15, 2023 but the opening ceremony is Tuesday, May 16, 2023. Due to the dates of MAEO Conference, it was decided the next board meeting will be held the following week, on Wednesday, May 24, 2023 and a public notice will be posted.

The Board was reminded that ethics reports are due April 30, 2023. The State will send a reminder. There is a final report that needs to be completed by board members not coming back for the next term.

NEW BUSINESS:

The 2024 Presidential Primary Election has been moved to Tuesday, May 14, 2024 due to the previous April date occurring during Passover. Polling places have been notified and requests have gone out to use Beaver Run and Pinehurst schools which were under construction during the last election and Parkside High School to replace the Ward Museum. We will also visit Faith Baptist Church to review their facilities.

The General Assembly passed a bill to pay returning election judges a \$100 bonus for each day they work during early voting and on election day. Dionne Church went to the County with this information and the County approved a 50/50 split of the cost with the State and is earmarking \$18,000 in next years budget for this purpose. Dionne will try to find the additional money in the current budget to fill in the gap.

The City of Salisbury redistricting is complete. The City will pay us back for any expenses incurred for the redistricting and the City Election.

The biennial Meeting will be Thursday, October 19, 2023 in Annapolis.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Dionne scheduled the Clerk of Court to swear in the new board on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 8:30 am. The board meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION:

Carsten Wendlandt made a motion to suspend the regular meeting and go into closed session in order to discuss personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Sharon Morris, passed unanimously. The closed session began at 9:50 a.m.

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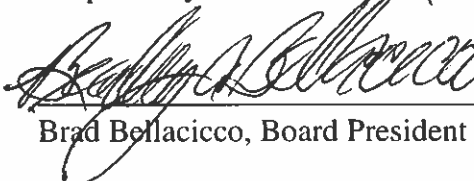
Following the closed session, Carsten Wendlandt made a motion to end the closed session and resume the regular meeting. This was seconded by Sharon Morris, passed unanimously. The closed session ended at 10:10 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT:


Brad Bellacicco announced that the next regular meeting will be Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

A motion was made by Carsten Wendlandt to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Joseph Collins, passed unanimously. The Board President adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brad Bellacicco, Board President May 25, 2023 Date



Veronica Fox, Election Program Assistant 5/25/23 Date