

MINUTES
Wicomico County Board of Elections
345 Snow Hill Road, Salisbury, MD 21804
Wednesday, May 20, 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 May 20, 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 that there was a quorum present. There were no recommendations for additions or changes to the agenda.

Catherine Keim voluntarily led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Brad Bellacicco led The Lord's Prayer.

Brad Bellacicco asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 15, 2020 Board Meeting. Sharon Morris made a motion to approve the April 15, 2020 minutes with one correction; seconded by Joseph Collins, passed unanimously.

Brad Bellacicco asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 7, 2020 Special Board Meeting. Sharon Morris made a motion to approve the May 7, 2020 minutes; seconded by Joseph Collins, passed unanimously.

Brad Bellacicco asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 12, 2020 Special Board Meeting. Sharon Morris made a motion to approve the May 12, 2020 minutes; seconded by Catherine Keim, passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: (See Attached Copy)

The County has issued new directives as to building occupancy. There was extensive discussion as to building access for members of the Board and the public, as well as how the county directives relate to SBE directives for the upcoming canvasses.

Katrina Purnell made a motion that the Election Director will contact the Wicomico County Safety Officer in Emergency Management to clarify if Board members are allowed unrestricted access in

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accordance with county COVID-19 distancing guidelines in the elections building as part of their election duties; seconded by Joseph Collins, passed by majority, with Sharon Morris abstaining. Brad Bellacicco. Board President stated that this item will be discussed further once this clarification has been received and reviewed by Peter Golba, Board Counsel.

OLD BUSINESS:

Catherine Keim made a motion for the board to delegate the selection of the post-election audit precincts to 2 board members and the staff on election night; seconded by Sharon Morris, passed unanimously.

As an update to the 2020 Presidential Primary Elections, to date there are 7,300 ballots received to process, and 2,600 undeliverables. The Director wishes to commend the staff for all their diligence and hard work during this process. Logic and Accuracy forms will be sent to Board members.

A live streaming test is planned for 2:00 p.m. this afternoon. PAC-14 will be here to set up.

On May 21, 2020, the canvass will begin at 10:00 a.m., and canvass workers will be sworn in.

SBE sent new remote guidelines for challengers and watchers. Information will be updated on our web page. Joseph Collins asked if the Democrat and Republican Central Committees are aware of these guidelines.

The Deputy Director recommends increasing the pay rate for canvass workers, as we are having difficulty filling positions. After discussion on canvass worker pay, the consensus of the Board is that it should be the decision of the Director to pay what needs to be paid to fill canvass worker positions. It was suggested that, in the process of hiring the canvass workers, they should be asked if they are receiving unemployment benefits.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was discussion of scenarios pertaining to how ballots are being distributed to voters.

Joseph Collins requested information on signature verification technology. The Director discussed how this is done in other states, and stated that he will look into information pertaining to such technology.

The canvass process now includes staff escorting the person transferring ballots from one room to the other.

MISCELLANEOUS:

None.

CLOSED SESSION:

None.

MEMBERS TIME:

None.

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BOARD ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Peter Golba indicated that he has forwarded any correspondence from SBE that he has received. He explained that, pertaining to certifying the election, there is a provision for the local Board to compose a letter to SBE, expressing any displeasure with the process as set forth, and stated that any particular issues should be noted with date and time.

Mr. Golba stated that he will answer any questions from the Board pertaining to building access, once clarification has been received from the county.

ADJOURNMENT:

Brad Bellacicco announced that the next meeting will be Wednesday June 17, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. Sharon Morris made a motion to adjourn, passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

 6/17/2020
Brad Bellacicco, Board President Date

 6/17/20
Bill Blockston, Recorder Date