

MINUTES
Wicomico County Board of Elections
345 Snow Hill Road, Salisbury, MD 21804
Wednesday, June 19, 2019

ATTENDEES: Catherine Keim, Board President (*Out-Going*), Republican Member
Katrina Purnell, Board Secretary, Democratic Member
Brad Bellacicco, Board President (*In-Coming*), Republican Member
Sharon Morris, Democratic Member
Peter Golba, Board Attorney
Anthony Gutierrez, Election Director
Dionne Church, Election Deputy Director

ABSENT: Joseph Collins, Republican Member (*Excused*)

GUEST: None

The Wicomico County Board of Elections met Wednesday, June 19, 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.

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

Catherine Keim asked for approval of the May 17, 2019 minutes. Sharon Morris made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Brad Bellacicco, passed, unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

We did a review of our current FY19 budget and we should end up with money to return to the County general fund. The County Administrator approved a transfer from our department salaries funds into our department operations funds to cover the final SBE voting system billing. However, we might not get that final until sometime in August.

The Director reported that we only have 2 action items from the 2018 primary and general post-election audit report: the polling place evaluation form for 13-004 was cited as incomplete and the numbers from MDVOTERS and the provisional canvass minutes did not agree. We will send in a response that we believe the report was submitted with the others and that it was in fact complete, but we will certainly review with the evaluators the importance of completely filling out the form; and that with our new permanent Absentee Voting Coordinator hired, the Director looks forward to working with her to mitigate the second item in the future, including adding step in our process to proof the provisional canvass minutes info to the MDVOTERS info prior to closing out the election in MDVOTERS, as directed. He expressed his gratitude to the staff for their hard work on the 2018 elections, especially the post-election audit team headed-up by Deputy Director Dionne Church.

The Director reported that the board attorney agrees that Asbury United Methodist Church satisfies the requirement to have a polling place in proximity to Salisbury University. However, the attorney wanted to have the board discuss any issues at that location; after discussing, the board decided to require an extra person at each election judge station; not to have anyone serve as Chief Judge that had never served as an Election Judge before; ensure the Chief Judges are adequately trained; and to ensure that we deploy an additional machine there for each election.

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OLD BUSINESS:

Polling places for Salisbury University students were discussed. Since Asbury UMC is within a half mile of the Salisbury University, it can continue to serve as a polling place for those students. Past issues related to this site were discussed, in addition to ways that such issues might be mitigated in the future. These included possibly employing additional staff and equipment, and bolstering training in certain areas. The Board commended the demonstration activity portion of the training that was conducted in 2016.

The Deputy Director reported on the progress of site surveys for a possible new polling place in Delmar. Wood Creek Clubhouse has not responded as of yet; Faith Baptist Church and the VFW are not recommended; and she has been in communication with Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, but a site visit has not yet been arranged.

NEW BUSINESS:

Prior to this meeting, the Honorable James B. McAllister, Clerk of the Circuit Court for Wicomico County, swore in two Board members for their four-year terms. Sharon Morris was present for the swearing in. However, neither she nor Katrina Purnell were sworn in at that time. On June 18, the Governor's Appointments office informed the Director that they still did not have any nomination forms from the Wicomico County Democratic Central Committee regarding our two Democratic board members.

There was discussion regarding review and approval of new model bylaws, including proposed local board officers, from the State Board of Elections.

Brad Bellacicco made a motion to table election of officers under the new bylaws until such bylaws have been reviewed and addressed; seconded by Sharon Morris, passed unanimously.

Brad Bellacicco made a motion to table the adoption of new bylaws at this time; seconded by Katrina Purnell, passed unanimously.

Brad Bellacicco made a motion to conduct election of officers (President and Secretary) until such time as new bylaws are adopted; seconded by Sharon Morris, passed unanimously.

Catherine Keim nominated Brad Bellacicco for the office of Board President; seconded by Sharon Morris, passed unanimously.

Sharon Morris nominated Katrina Purnell to continue in the office of Board Secretary; seconded by Brad Bellacicco, passed unanimously.

Sharon Morris made a motion to continue the offices of Board President and Secretary as outlined in the old bylaws at this time; seconded by Catherine Keim, passed unanimously.

The Director asked for a motion to set meeting dates and times. Sharon Morris made a motion to continue meeting on the third Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m.; seconded by Catherine Keim, passed unanimously.

The Director asked for a motion delegating the selection of the post-election audit precincts to two board members after polls close on election night. A motion was made by Katrina Purnell; seconded by Catherine Keim, passed unanimously.

Brad Bellacicco requested a basic closeout status report on last year's budget. He also requested a high-level overview of job functions for persons in the office.

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MISCELLANEOUS:

None

MEMBERS TIME:

None

CLOSED SESSION: Personnel Items

The regular meeting was adjourned at 9:48 to go into a closed session.

A motion was made by Katrina Purnell to reconvene the regular meeting; seconded by Catherine Keim, passed unanimously. At 10:20 a.m., upon conclusion of the closed session, the Board President reconvened the regular meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:


Brad Bellacicco announced the next scheduled meeting would be Wednesday, July 17 at 9:00 a.m.

Sharon Morris made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Catherine Keim, passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Brad Bellacicco, Board President

7/17/2019
Date


Bill Blockston

7/17/19
Date