

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 200

Columbia, MD 21046

Monday April 28, 2014 at 4 PM

Regular Scheduled Board Meeting

PERSONS ATTENDING:

Board Members:

Ann Balcerzak Board President

Donna Thewes – Board Vice President - Republican

Ray Rankin – Democratic Member

Donna Rice – Democratic (Sub)

Patrick Mullinix – Republican (New Sub)

ABSENT MEMBERS:

Donna Rice – Democratic (Sub)

Staff:

Guy C. Mickley – Director

Charlotte B. Davis – Deputy Director

Carol Hart – Board Secretary

VISITORS:

None

Open Session:

Board President Ann Balcerzak requested a motion to open the scheduled April Open meeting. With a motion from Donna Thewes and a second from Ray Rankin, the meeting was opened at 4:04 pm. A quorum was established.

Patrick Mullinix was introduced as the Republican Substitute member of the Board replacing Chuck Coles, the previous Republican Substitute. Mr. Mullinix gave a brief introduction of his background to the group. Mr. Mullinix was welcomed by the group.

Approval of Minutes – Open Session:

The minutes from four (4) various Board Meetings, conducted since the February 2014 Board Meeting, were reviewed.

The minutes for the Regular March 26 meeting were approved with two corrections. Under Adjournment, a correction will be made stating Donna Thewes was acting as President in the absence of President Ann Balcerzak and correcting the date of meeting from Monday March 26 to read as Wednesday March 26. The minutes were approved, with the two corrections noted, by a motion from Donna Thewes and a second by Ray Rankin. A unanimous vote was expressed by all.

The minutes for a March 05 Special Open Board Meeting were reviewed and a motion was made to approve by Donna Thewes with a second by Ray Rankin. A unanimous vote was expressed by the group.

President Report:

President Balcerzak informed the group that she had received notice that a hearing date has been assigned for the pending Petition Litigation case. Judge Tisdale will be hearing the case on May 14, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. at the Circuit Court. The court has allotted three hours for this motion. All Board members are invited to attend.

President Balcerzak also informed the group that the Fix Howard County litigants had filed an appeal with the Appellant Court and this case has been dismissed as of April 25, 2014. The reason for the dismissal was because the Appellant court lacked jurisdiction because the Circuit Court had not entered any final in the case and was therefore still considered an open case.

Ray Rankin informed the group that he had finished the on-line training course regarding the Open Meeting rules and laws. The newest Substitute Board member, Pat Mullinix, was also offered the opportunity to take the course.

President Balcerzak requested Donna Thewes to once again assign Board members to visit the various polling sites for both the Early Voting, for both elections, as well Primary and General Election days. Donna stated she would be breaking up and assigning Board staff to visit various polling sites on Primary and General Election Day. For the Early Voting sites; Ann B. and Donna R. will visit the Bain Center, Ray R. and Pat M. will visit the Miller Library and Donna T. will cover Ridgely Run.

President Balcerzak gave the group an update on Special Counsel Gerry Richman. He is out of the hospital and doing well. She also stated she is very pleased with Special Counsel Kevin Karpinski, the replacement for Attorney Richman, and the job he has done to date with the litigation case.

Directors Report:

*See attached

After a discussion with the Board Members, regarding the date for the public L&A, Director Mickley informed the Board that the date previously set could be changed as no advertising had been done as yet. Also, the Friday, May 23 date is a State Service Reduction day and the office would be closed on that day. All were in agreement and date was changed from May 23 to May 22, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Mickley will advertise the Thursday date for the Public L&A and requested that two Board Members to attend.

Ray Rankin brought to the attention of everyone that the access to the SBE (State Board of Elections) on-line Library was no longer available. Director Mickley let the Board members know that he will be establishing Maryland.gov accounts for everyone as that is now the only way they can access the SBE website.

Director Mickley advised the Board that SBE now requires the office to process submitted registration applications from sixteen year olds. These registrants will be made active in the system and the office is required to send out VNC's (Voter Notification Card) to them. In addition, a letter is also to be sent to these same sixteen year applicants informing them that they will be unable to vote until they turn eighteen years old before or by the date of the General Election of that year.

Board Counsel Report:

Attorney Molinaro reported that Nikki Trella Charles will be conducting conference calls every two weeks with the local Board Counselors beginning May 07, 2014. These conference calls will occur every two weeks after that leading up to Early Voting. He requested that everyone keep him abreast of any questions or concerns they might want discussed during these conference calls.

Update on Old/New Business:

No old business

New Business:

Donna Thewes reported that she will be doing eight Congressional Hearings and she will be the closing speaker at one of them.

Attorney Molinaro raised the subject of the Canvassing dates. It was confirmed that the dates of Canvassing will be June 26, July 2 and July 7, 2014. The date for the Canvassing was extended due to the July 4th holiday.

The monthly meeting for May falls on Memorial Day this year. It was decided that the May meeting will be moved to Monday June 02, 2014 at 4:00 pm. Contact will be made with the County Court Clerk, Wayne Robey, and arrange for him to attend that meeting so that Board Members can be sworn in for the Election Canvass.

Donna Thewes will coordinate which Board Members will be visiting the various polling places on Election Day.

President Balcerzak requested a motion to close the Open Session and move into Executive Session in order to review, discuss and/or correct the minutes from two previous closed meetings. A motion was voiced by Ran Rankin with a second from Pat Mullinix.

The regular Open Meeting was closed at 5:05 p.m. so that the Board could go into Executive Session.

The Executive session was required to review and approve Executive Minutes from two previous sessions.

The Executive Session was closed at 5:10

The regular Open Meeting was re-convened at 5:11 p.m.

Adjournment:

With no further business to discuss, President Balcerzak requested a motion for adjournment of the April 2014 Board Meeting. Ray Rankin made the motion and a second of the motion was expressed by Donna Thewes. The meeting was closed with unanimous approval from all members.

Open Session closed at 5:11 p.m.

SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING: June 02, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

G. Carol Hart, Board Secretary

Ann M. Balcerzak, Board President