

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 200

Columbia, MD 21046

May Meeting Held on Monday June 02, 2014 at 4 PM

Regular Scheduled Board Meeting

PERSONS ATTENDING:

Board Members:

Donna Thewes – Board Vice President – Republican (Acting as Board President)

Ray Rankin – Democratic Member

Donna Rice – Democratic (Sub)

Patrick Mullinix – Republican (New Sub)

Michael Molinaro – Board Counsel

ABSENT MEMBERS:

Ann Balcerzak - Board President

Staff:

Guy C. Mickley – Director

Charlotte B. Davis – Deputy Director

Carol Hart – Board Secretary

VISITORS:

David Zimmer

Open Session:

Acting as Board President, Donna Thewes requested a motion to open the scheduled May Open meeting. With a motion from Ray Rankin and a second from Patrick Mullinix, the meeting was opened at 4:10 pm. A quorum was established. The May meeting was held on June 02, 2014 due to the Memorial Holiday falling on the fourth Monday of that month.

First order of business was for the Board, in attendance, to be sworn in as the Canvass Board for the 2014 Election season. County Representative Wayne Robey attended the meeting to perform this process. President Balcerzak will make arrangements to be sworn in by Mr. Robey on June 4.

Approval of Minutes – Open Session:

The minutes for the regular April 28, 2014 Open Board Meeting were reviewed by those in attendance. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Donna Rice with a second by Patrick Mullinix. Minutes were unanimously approved by those in attendance.

President Report:

* Nothing to report as President Balcerzak was not in attendance.

Ms. Thewes, acting as President, had nothing to report. There was no correspondence to address. She opened the floor for Board Members and guests the opportunity to speak on topics of their choice.

Guest David Zimmer, who is an election judge, spoke positively on his attending the Howard County judge training class for Primary Day and also the Early Voting training class. Mr. Zimmer made the suggestion that perhaps Howard County could be a test county for implementing Voting Centers in Maryland in place of having so many polling places. Director Mickley spoke about the need for legislation changes before Voting Centers could be implemented.

Ms. Thewes gave an update on the Congressional Hearing school project she had been attending. There are three more to attend and then all will be done until the following year or when request is received.

Directors Report:

Director Mickley reported that all Primary election judge training sessions were complete except the Early Voting training classes. Those will be done this week. The Chief Judge class went exceptionally well as the trainers were able to go over all the different types of duties the Judges would be doing so that the Chiefs will know what process's they will be overseeing. The evaluations received from the attendees after class resulted in their giving high marks for the training classes.

The office will have Open House from June 9 through 11 and also on Saturday the 14th for any judges who want some more clarification or additional training of what duties they will be doing on Election Day or to get more familiar with the equipment they will be using. All the Judge positions are now filled but it is standard to have some quit before the Elections and the Judge recruiting staff have some trained alternates to fill any vacancies. Poll book L&A will also be going on at the same time the Open House is occurring.

****Miscellaneous Updates:**

- 1) Set-up of the three Early Voting Centers will be done on June 11.
- 2) Guy has placed ads in various publications re; the Early Voting sites, dates and times.
- 3) Logic and Accuracy testing of the voting units is complete and the public L&A went very well. One guest attended.

- 4) All Voting Units are ready to go for the Election.
- 5) Absentee ballot total to date is 569.
- 6) Sample ballots have been mailed.

Board Counsel Report:

Attorney Molinaro reported that the planned conference calls, prior to the upcoming Election, have occurred every two weeks, chaired by Nikki Charleston. General discussions took place. The Canvass Minutes and Canvass Script have been revised and are posted on the SBE on-line Library. Attorney Molinaro recommended Board Members go to the on-line Library for the most recent version. Upon learning that Board Members do not have access to the on-line library; Director Mickley informed everyone that he had submitted the request for Board Members to have a shared account access and approval would be before the election. Guy will also pull the updated Canvassing document information and email it to all Board Members.

There are new or slightly changed post-election audits to be signed. Mr. Mickley clarified that the majority of the audit documents are more for the Administrative staff.

As a result of the State Board of Elections (SBE) failure to certify the On-Line Balloting Tool, the Federation for the Blind has brought suit against the State of Maryland in federal court. The State Board of Elections will handle this lawsuit.

The Circuit Court Judge has issued a ruling on the pending consolidated Petition Litigation and upheld the decision made by the local Howard County Board and Election Director. This decision will probably be appealed and the petitioners have thirty days to file their appeal with the Court of Special Appeals. Our Litigation Counsel will monitor this case over the summer but Attorney Molinaro expects an oral argument to be heard sometime in August as the ballot language deadline is in early August. Attorney Molinaro will keep the Board posted on what he learns.

Update on Old/New Business:

No old business

New Business:

A Secretary will need to be chosen as the Canvass Board Secretary for the 2014 Primary Canvass. After some discussion it was determined that the full Board of Canvassers needs to be in attendance before selecting and voting for a Secretary of the Canvass. This will occur prior to the first Canvass when the full Board is in attendance.

Director Mickley informed the Board of the purchase of several voting stations, using Federal Grant monies, which will be used at the Early Voting sites. These voting stations are handicap accessible.

Ms. Thewes, acting as President, expressed that in her opinion the new Provisional application, requiring only one signature, will result in less Provisional Ballots being rejected during the Canvass. Previously these ballots required the voter to sign in two places and often voters would only sign in one place.

Ms. Thewes requested a motion to move into Closed Session. A motion was voiced by Donna Rice, in order to review and approve the Executive minutes from a previous Closed Session, and a second voiced from Patrick Mullinix.

Executive Session began at 4:45 p.m.

With two corrections, in changing the name of Ran Rankin to Ray Rankin and Pat Mullinix to Patrick Mullinix, the minutes were approved by a motion from Patrick Mullinix and a second was voiced by Donna Rice.

The Board Member's discussed whether a Closed Session was needed each meeting if they are only reviewing, pointing out any corrections and/or voting on accepting previous Executive Minutes. It was a unanimous agreement that this process was unnecessary and would be discontinued in the future.

The Executive Session was closed at 4:49

Ms. Thewes requested a motion to close the Executive Session. A motion was made by Donna Rice and a second was voiced by Ray Rankin.

The regular Open Meeting was re-convened at 4:49 p.m.

Adjournment:

With no further business to discuss, Donna Thewes, acting as President, requested a motion for adjournment of the May 2014 Board Meeting. Donna Rice made the motion and a second of the motion was expressed by Patrick Mullinix. The meeting was closed with unanimous approval from all members.

Open Session closed at 4:53 p.m.

SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING: June 23, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

G. Carol Hart, Board Secretary

Donna Thewes, Acting as Board President