

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 200

Columbia, MD 21046

Friday, November 14, 2014 at 12:30 PM

Regular Open Board Meeting

PERSONS ATTENDING:

Board Members:

Ann Balcerzak – Board President
Donna Thewes – Board Vice President - Republican
Ray Rankin – Democratic Member
Patrick Mullinix – Republican (Sub)
Donna Rice – Democrat (Sub)
Mike Molinaro – Board Counsel

ABSENT MEMBERS:

None

Staff:

Guy C. Mickley – Director
Charlotte B. Davis – Deputy Director
Carol Hart – Board Secretary

VISITORS:

Joel Hurewitz
David Zinner

The Board of Canvassers recessed on November 14, 2014 at 12:40 p.m. The regular Board of Election meeting commenced immediately upon the closing of the Canvassing Board. The Canvass Board will reconvene once the final numbers of the Absentee/Provisional Canvas are ready for transmittal.

OPEN SESSION: Ms. Balcerzak, Board President opened the November Open Board Meeting at 12:40 p.m. with an established quorum present.

PRESIDENT REPORT: None

COUNSELOR REPORT: None

DIRECTOR REPORT: None

NEW BUSINESS: First order of business was the Board Members hearing from a registered Voter of Howard County, Joel Hurewitz, in regard to issues he has with the accessibility of Polling Place 5-08 around the Wild Lake High School/Bryant Woods location. Mr. Hurewitz shared his belief that voters must crisscross around to go to other voting poll locations and the inconvenience he feels this creates for the voter. Director Mickley and the Board explained all the various factors that go into choosing where a voting location would best serve the voters. However, the Board did inform today's guest that his points and suggestions were heard and would be taken into consideration and discussed at future meetings. Mr. Hurewitz was informed that the Board would not be meeting in December but would resume monthly meetings beginning in January 2015, at which time the Board and Director would have time to discuss his proposals. He was invited to attend the February Open Meeting or any other future Open Meetings, or to call, to see what progress had been made with his suggestions.

There will be no Board Meeting in the month of December. However, there will be an office Holiday Party on December 17 which the Board will attend. The Board announced they would be meeting on November 20, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. in Executive Session to discuss Director Mickley's required performance evaluation.

With no further topics for discussion at the Regular November Meeting, the Board reviewed the minutes from 4 sessions, October 20, 2014 Regular Meeting, the November 4, 2014 Special Open Board Meeting, as well as the minutes from the November 6, 2014 Absentee Ballot Canvass and November 12, 2014 Provisional Canvass. Minor changes were noted and corrections were to be made to the minutes of October 20 and November 4. Upon request from President Balcerzak, a motion to accept the minutes, with amendments, of the Regular Board Meeting of Oct. 20 and Special Open Board Meeting of Nov. 4 was made by Ray Rankin and a second expressed by Patrick Mullinix for both dates. A unanimous vote was expressed by all.

President Balcerzak requested a motion to accept the minutes for the Nov. 6 Canvass Meeting and the Nov. 12 Canvass Meeting and received a motion by Ray Rankin and a second by Patrick Mullinix for both dates with minor amendments. A unanimous vote was expressed by all.

A second guest, David Zinner, one of the Chief Judges for the 2014 General Election at Longreach High (DP 6-29), was welcomed to the meeting and permitted to address the Board. Mr. Zinner wanted to bring to the Boards attention an incident that occurred in which a voter brought to his attention and complained that he was having a problem with the voting unit he was using un-casting his Republican vote for Governor and switching his vote to the Democratic Governor candidate on the ballot. The voter said he had tried several times but the same thing continued to happen.

Chief Judge Zinner said he asked the voter to show him what he was doing when the switch happened. As Mr. Zinner observed the voter casting his vote on this particular voting unit he did observe the machine switch the Governor Candidate choice from the Republican candidate to the Democratic candidate. Mr. Zinner stated he also learned that the voter had used his cell phone to video what was happening at that time. President Balcerzak reminded Mr. Zinner that cell phones are not allowed to be used in the polling places. He stated that he was not aware that the voter was using the cell phone in that manner but learned about this later. The voter was eventually able to register his vote for the candidate he wanted before leaving.

After the voter left, Mr. Zinner stated since he had not voted as yet, and this was his home precinct, he attempted to use the same machine to cast his vote and he was able to replicate the same problem. The machine was taken out of service. Mr. Mickley stated that Howard County would not be testing the machine as SBE had asked for a report of any machines with reported malfunctions and were taken out of service. Any further testing would be done by SBE.

OLD BUSINESS: None

With no further discussion of any other Reports and no New Business, President Balcerzak called for a motion to close the Open Board Meeting and again go into session as the Canvassing Board. A motion was made by Ray Rankin and a second was made by Patrick Mullinix. The Open Board Meeting closed at 2:00 p.m.

The Board of Canvassers went back into session at 2:00 p.m.

The final tally for the General Election Canvassing was received and posted, as required.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business for the Canvass Board to address, President Ann Balcerzak called for a motion to close the Meeting of the Canvassing Board at 2:15 p.m. A motion to close today's Canvass meeting was made by Patrick Mullinix and a second was voiced by Donna Rice. A unanimous vote was expressed by all in attendance.

The next Open Board Meeting will be on January 26, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

G. Carol Hart, Board Secretary

Ann M. Balcerzak, Board President