

Howard County Board of Elections
8900 Columbia 100 Parkway
Columbia, MD 21045
June 22, 2009

Present:

Ann M. Balcerzak, President
Donna K. Thewes, Vice-President
Raymond M. Rankin, Member
Charles M. Coles, Jr., Substitute
Donna L. Rice, Substitute
Michael S. Molinaro, Board Counsel
Vivian L. Dixon, Board Secretary

Staff: Betty L. Nordaas, Director
Guy Mickley, Deputy Director

Ms. Balcerzak called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM, followed by Pledge of Allegiance. All members were present, constituting a quorum.

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of Minutes for March 12th Special Executive Meeting, March 23rd Executive Meeting and April 27, 2009 were deferred until July on, 2009 Meeting. Board Members wished to have further review.

Changes to Agenda: None

Correspondence: None

President: President yielded to Ms. Nordaas for her Report and subsequent Executive Session matters.

Director's Report:

- HCBE's Educational Assistance Plan was modeled after the County's. County has remodeled their plan. County increased their allotment to \$2,000; HCBE was \$1,800. Director notified that due to economic conditions, County was limiting allotment to \$1,000. Revised Plan reduces allotment to \$1,000, with final approval for Educational Assistant coming from the Director. The Board would only be involved when there is a question or disagreement between the Director/Staff. Director's request will come before the Board. The Board unanimously approved revised Plan.
- On Regional Technical Support for MDVoters (registration system), for counties that do not have IT Technicians to provide such support. State previously provided such support. Michael Kortum, Chief Information Officer for SBE, requested that Walter Maddox be on load for 20-hours per quarter, to provide support for MDVoters. State is not able to reimburse HC for the hours spent providing support. Reimbursement for mileage will be

given. State will absorb any necessary training expenses.

- Director sought Counsel's advice and Board agreement, since HC pays Mr. Maddox's salary, and next year, with early voting, coming elections and new systems, such support cannot be provided. Therefore Mr. Kortum needs a "long-term", final solution to the problem. An email, received this week, confirms that he is preceding an attempt to put the plan together.

Board Response:

- Not in favor of County absorbing cost.
- State finance formal IT Educational Training to employees in targeted Counties.
- HC has been generous in sharing and is operating under current economic conditions.
- Any time over 40-hour week would be considered overtime and subject to Fair Labor Standard Act, absent State indemnity.
- Counties would experience false sense of security.
- Mr. Maddox is critical to HC and the Board supports Director's reluctance.

Director cont'd:

- Back Scanning 2-Year Project, completed! Staff commended for an "excellent job" in attaching Voter Registration Application to record in MDVoters system. They included and populated available information on voters.
- When voters relocate, their original application, with signature in retained by that office. Confirmation Mailers are being sent to such voters requesting an original signature. Recent changes to HC Code requiring verification of signatures on petitions prompted this effort. Confirmation Mailer developed by Deputy Director, Mickley (Mailer shared).
- Prior to MDVoters the HOVA requirements for identification, required voters to provide a driver's license, social security number and utility bill allowed us to register voters. None of these items were attached to registration. Current efforts being made to attach all forms of ID to Voters record. This will eliminate having to rely on paper file. Everything will be in our database.
- Street File Analysis being conducted to establish accuracy of data base file to identify residential, business and commercial addresses. This will prevent voter from using non-residential address when registering to vote.

Ms. Nordaas received approval from Lonnie Robins, Chief Administrative Officer to attend the August Election Center National Conference in San Diego, California and Board gave final approval for Director and Deputy Director's attendance.

At 4:43 PM the Board convened to Executive Session. At 6:32 PM the Board reconvened to Open Session. Board unanimously agreed to address remaining Agenda items July 07, 2009 at 4:00 PM. Included will be Director and Attorney Reports, New/Old Business Agenda Items.

Action: Board to look at polling sites in light of Election Law Code 10-101 and changes resulting for upcoming census. Technical contract discussions will continue as well as terms of product development and implementation. Board voluntarily voted for 5-day pay furlough in line with furlough imposed on staff by County. Board continued Contract of Atty. Michael S. Molinaro as Board Counsel, while recognizing his exemplary service.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, adjournment was unanimously agreed upon. Session closed at 6:34 PM. The next meeting will be held July 07, 2009 at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Vivian L. Dixon 24 Aug 09.
Vivian L Dixon, Secretary

, Ann M. Balcerzak 24 Aug 09
Ann M. Balcerzak, President