

Minutes

Talbot County Board of Elections
215 Bay Street
Easton, MD 21601
March 16, 2022

Attendance

Board Members Present

Joseph Secrist, President	(R)
Walter Black	(D)
Richard Bulman	(R)
Wadella Thomas	(R)
Susan MacKinnon	(D)

Staff

Dionne Church, Election Director

Board Attorney

Lyndsey Ryan

Public

None

The monthly meeting of the Talbot County Board of Elections was held March 16, 2022 in Conference Room # One at the Board office indicated above. Mr. Secrist called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Mr. Secrist noted that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Secrist asked if the Board had any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meeting of February 16, 2022, copies of which had been forwarded to the Board Members in advance of the meeting. Mr. Black moved approval of the minutes as presented. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Addition/Changes to the Agenda

Mr. Secrist asked for any additions or changes to the agenda as presented. There were none. Ms. MacKinnon moved approval of the agenda as presented. Mr. Bulman seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Election Director's Report

Ms. Church provided the Board with a written report on activities since the last Board Meeting, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. She supplemented her written report as follows:

She provided the Board Members with copies of the Court Order signed by Joseph M. Getty, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals of Maryland, ordering the 2022 Primary for Gubernatorial Elections moved to July 19, 2022. The order also delays the other statutory dates related to that election. Depending on the events regarding the redistricting suit, these dates may be further delayed.

She pointed out that the items in her report regarding the December monthly report and the List Maintenance Functions is a carryover from the previous report and should be disregarded.

Interviews for a vacancy in the office have been completed and one candidate's name has been forwarded to the State Board staff for approval.

Board Attorney's Report

Ms. Ryan had no items for open session.

Old Business

a. Facility for Election Office

Ms. Church reported that there is no new information regarding space for the Election Board.

b. Budget FY2022

Ms. Church provided reports on expenditures recorded through February.

c. Budget FY2023

Board Members discussed with Ms. Church the impact that the Court Order regarding the delay of the Primary Election will have on the budget for the coming year given that the election will now be held in FY2023 rather than FY2022. Ms. Church will contact the county finance department and discuss the need for additional funds for the coming year and the possibility to use of budget surplus from FY2022.

d. Review Invoices

Ms. Church previously provided Board Members with copies of invoices received since the last meeting. There were no questions from Board Members.

e. County Bulletins

Ms. Church previously provided copies of County Bulletins. There were no questions from Board Members.

f. Redistricting Update

Several court challenges have been filed regarding the validity of the districting plan enacted by the General Assembly. In connection with these challenges, the Court of Appeals of Maryland has ordered that the Primary for Gubernatorial Elections be moved to July 19, 2022 and the related statutory dates be modified as well. Updated maps for election districts will not be published until after the court rules on the challenges.

New Business

a. Primary Election Update

Ms. Church reported that the staff will begin notifying applicants for Election Judges that the dates have changed to determine their availability to serve. She will also be contacting the owners of the polling places to inform them of the new dates.

b. 2022 Election Judge Review

Ms. Church provided Board Members with copies of suggested Election Judge assignments. She needs 130 judges, but now has applications from 98 people. Ms. Church responded to questions from Board Members. No action was taken. She will continue to recruit judges and will provide a revised list for consideration at the next Board Meeting.

c. 2022 Training Schedule

Ms. Church provided a training schedule for the judges. This schedule will be revised as a result of the change in the election calendar.

Confirmation of next meeting

Mr. Secrist noted that the next regular meeting of the Board of Elections will be at 9:30 a.m. on April 20, 2022.

Closed Session

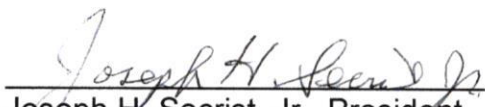
Mr. Black moved that the Board go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters that affect one or more specific individuals as permitted under General Provisions Art. 3-305(b) (1). Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. Whereupon the Board went into closed session at 10:21 a.m. Present at this session were Board Members Mr. Secrist, Mr. Black, Ms. Thomas, Ms. MacKinnon and Mr. Bulman. Election Director Dionne Church and Board Attorney Lyndsey Ryan were also present.

At 10:59. a.m. the Board returned to open session. President Secrist reported that the Board discussed specifics regarding personnel appeal issues. The Board also approved the minutes of the Closed Meeting of February 16, 2022.

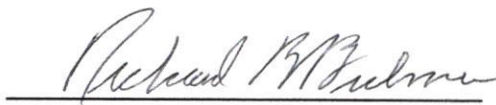
Adjournment

Mr. Black moved adjournment of the meeting. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Attested,


Joseph H. Secrist, Jr., President

Respectfully submitted,


Richard B. Bulman, Secretary