

# Minutes

Talbot County Board of Elections  
215 Bay Street  
Easton, MD 21601  
*April 20, 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

\*Ms. MacKinnon attended by video conference.

The monthly meeting of the Talbot County Board of Elections was held April 20, 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 March 16, 2022, copies of which had been forwarded to the Board Members in advance of the meeting. Mr. Bulman moved approval of the minutes as presented. Mr. Black 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. Black moved approval of the agenda as presented. Ms. Thomas 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 her activities since the last Board Meeting, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. She expanded on her report as follows:

- Democratic Central Committee will be submitting a nominee for State Senate seat.
- The legislature has approved a revised Congressional redistricting map. The court has accepted the new map and the law suit over this matter has been settled.

On April 13, 2022 the MD State of appeals ordered that the Legislative Redistricting Plan of 2022 enacted on January 27, 2022 shall be used as the Legislative redistricting map.

- An additional contract employee has been hired.
- Election Judge training will begin next week. A training calendar was provided to Board Members and were encouraged to attend at least one session. Staff member Fred Gleockler has been helping the State Board staff in Annapolis prepare for the upcoming elections.

## **Board Attorney's Report**

Ms. Ryan advised the Board that Andrea Trento has left the Attorney General's office. She had been working on State Board of Elections matters. Jim Lewis is now handing these matters pending appointment of a replacement for Andrea. Ms. Ryan also reported that she has a personnel matter to discuss with the Board in Closed Session.

## **Old Business**

### **a. Facility for Election Office**

Ms. Church reported that there is no new information regarding space for the Election Board at the former Cadmus building. The county facilities manager provided Ms. Church with a floor plan in the Board's existing building for comment. Copies were provided to Board Members for comment. Discussion among Board Members was had regarding the suitability of the plan as presented. No action was taken.

### **b. Budget FY2022**

Ms. Church provided reports on expenditures recorded through February. Board Members had no comments or questions.

c. Budget FY2023

No additional information was available from the county. Given the fact that the Primary Election originally scheduled for FY2022 will now be in FY2023, Ms. Church asked the county about transferring funds from this budget year to next year. How that will be handled has not yet been determined.

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

As noted in Ms. Church's report, the court has accepted a redistricting plan. She has begun updating the records and preparing maps for publication. Per State Board direction, no maps may be posted until all local boards are ready to release them.

g. Election Judge Review

Ms. Church provided copies of her current Election Judge suggested assignments for the Primary Election. She answered questions from Board Members. The assignments are subject to further modifications. Ms. Church noted that, at this point, she has only 4 Standby Judges. Additional judges are needed to provide a sufficient pool in the event that some who originally signed up may not be available due to the change in dates for the Primary.

**New Business**

a. Primary Election Update

Ms. Church previously reported on the acceptance of the redistricting map by the court, the recruiting of Election Judges and the status of the request to modify the budget to cover the cost of the Primary during FY2023.

b. 2022 Training Schedule & Manuals

Ms. Church previously provided Board Members with her schedule for Election Judge Training. She offered Board Members copies of the Training Manual.

c. Municipal Elections

Ms. Church noted that St. Michaels, Oxford and Trappe will be holding elections in the near future. She will be providing Oxford and Trappe with voter registration precinct listings. She has already provided St. Michaels with a voter registration precinct listing and is available for answer questions for all the municipals as needed.

**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 May 18, 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 10:40 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.

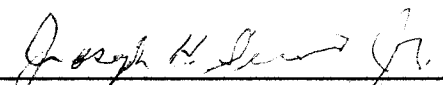
At 10:53 a.m. the Board returned to open session. President Secrist reported that the Board discussed specifics regarding personnel appeal issues. The Board also approved the minutes of the Closed Meeting of March 16, 2022.

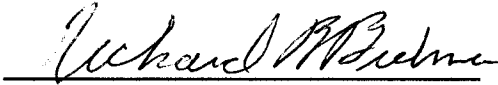
**Adjournment**

Mr. Black moved adjournment of the meeting. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Attested,

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Joseph H. Secrist, Jr., President

  
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Richard B. Bulman, Secretary