

Minutes

Talbot County Board of Elections
215 Bay Street, Suite 7
Conference Room 1
Easton, MD 21601
April 17, 2024

Present:

Board

Susan MacKinnon	(D)
Denise Lovelady	(R)
Walter Black	(D)
Barbara H. Perry	(D)
Gugy Irving III	(R)

Staff

Tammy Stafford, Talbot County Election Director

Board Attorney

Lyndsey Ryan

Public Attending

Members of the public were in attendance

The monthly meeting of the Talbot County Board of Elections was held April 17, 2024, in meeting room 1 at the Board office indicated above. Ms. MacKinnon called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and noted that a quorum was present.

Swearing-in of Board of Canvassers

Kathy Duvall, Clerk of Circuit Court, conducted the swearing in of the Board members to be the Board of Canvassers for the upcoming canvass.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. MacKinnon asked if the Board had any corrections or additions to the minutes March 20, 2024. There were none. Mr. Black moved to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Changes to Agenda

Ms. MacKinnon asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Ms. Stafford added under Old Business, item C, Canvass and Election to add item "c". Pre-election Logic and Accuracy Voting Unit Testing Certification.

Approval of the Agenda

Ms. MacKinnon asked for a motion to approve the agenda with this change. Ms. Perry moved to accept the agenda with the change. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Mr. Harrison requested to have the Board of Elections meetings live streamed.

Ms. Wilcoxon commented on the recent meeting at the Board of Elections, email addresses for board members, party balance of election judges, and cameras at Drop Boxes.

Mr. Bernard commented on cameras at Drop Boxes, flag in meeting room and pledge of allegiance.

Ms. Stepp commented on the recent meeting at the Board of Elections, the state's purchase of the DS200 Tabulator machines, and Ballot Marking Devices (BMD). At which time Ms. Stafford interjection clarification about the BMD. Ms. MacKinnon stated that there should be no interruptions and that everyone should quietly listen but to be brief. Ms. Stepp then mentioned Blank Ballots and redactions concerning firewalls made by the Department of Legislative Services which the state would have to address.

Mr. Gunsallus commented on the recent meeting, thanked the Board and staff for what they do with such a small staff.

Mr. Firth thanked the Board and staff for their professionalism and transparent election management and for the Open House which he hopes will be an ongoing event after the primary and in off-years. He recommended concerned citizens can go to the Rumor Control link on the State Board of Elections website.

Ms. Judy stated that they were only here to ask questions and make sure that elections are safe and secure.

Election Director's Report

Ms. Stafford provided the Board with a written Director's Report on activities since the last Board meeting. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. Ms. Stafford provided updated information on correspondence, voting system activities, precinct and polling issues and other projects.

Under correspondence, Ms. Stafford has received a new PIA from Ms. Wilcoxon and is working on the response.

Under Voting System Activities, Ms. Stafford noted that the Logic and Analytics Testing has been completed. The Public L & A demonstration is now scheduled for April 26, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Under precinct and polling issues, Ms. Stafford said that since there have been some judges dropping out, that emails have been sent to all on the wait list. She can provide an updated report.

Under Other projects, the dates for election activities and canvass have now been moved to the top of the webpage. Ms. Stafford addressed the question of municipalities using county equipment and stated that such use has to be coordinated with the board of elections.

Concerning the Monthly Statistical Report, Mr. Irving asked why are inactive voters included. Ms. Stafford indicated that it is for list maintenance. These are persons who have been sent correspondence but have not replied. Mr. Irving asked if they can update information during

same day registration. Ms. Stafford indicated they can. This is not the first year for same day registration but Ms. Stafford said she did not know when it first started.

Board Attorney's Report

Ms. Ryan pointed out handouts in our packets and provided an additional handout concerning our duties as the Board of Canvassers and the requirement for confidentiality. She stated that she will be at all Canvasses. Ms. Ryan then gave an overview of legislation that impacts elections one of which dealt with the Board of Education allowing schools to be closed to allow polling in schools, which could help Talbot County if it is an issue in the future. A copy of that Legislative Overview is attached.

Ms. Stafford interjected that there was a clarification of administrative leave for county employees serving as election judges and pay increase for returning judges was clarified to mean the immediate prior election. Ms. MacKinnon asked if the incentive was working and Ms. Stafford said it had not had as big of an impact as they had hoped.

Old Business

A. Facility for Election Office - Nothing to report.

B. FY25 budget - The budget has been submitted and Ms. Stafford removed the request for a Ballot Sorter since that needs to be reconsidered.

C. Canvass and Election

a. Board Responsibilities and Duties

i. Supply Verification – Two precincts' names (Easton and Oxford) were randomly drawn for the supply verification along with early voting. This will be done after the meeting by Mr. Irving and Ms. Perry.

ii. Polling Place Evaluations – The Board discussed if it would be done like in the past with each board member doing two precincts on election day and two random early voting days. The Board agreed to follow this plan and divided up the precincts accordingly. The completed evaluations are then sent to the state for audit.

b. Canvass Dates - April 22 from 10 – 6; April 24 from 10 – 6 if there are enough ballots to count; May 16 from 10 – 6; May 22 from 10 – 6; May 24 from 10 – 6

c. Pre-election and Accuracy Testing – The Board signed the testing results.

New Business

A. Confidential Voter Request – Ms. Stafford is in receipt of such a request to be addressed in closed session. Ms. Lovelady moved to go into closed session at 11:18 a.m., motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Closed Session

The Board met in closed session from 11:18 a.m. until 11:40 a.m. to discuss election judges, confidential voter request and legal advice. No action was taken. A motion was made to return to open session it was seconded and passed unanimously.

After the closed session, Ms. Lovelady moved to accept the confidential voter request, motion seconded and approved unanimously. Mr. Irving moved to accept the list of election judges, motion seconded and approved unanimously.

Confirmation of next meeting

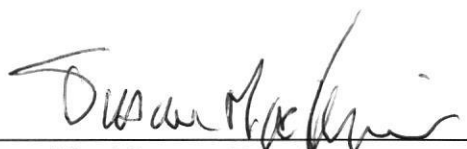
The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Elections will be on Wednesday May 15, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. In addition, the regularly scheduled June meeting would be on June 19, 2024 however that is a state and county holiday. Ms. Lovelady moved to schedule our June meeting on June 20, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Adjournment

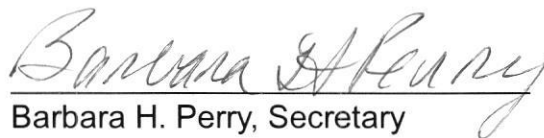
Ms. Irving moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Attested,

Respectfully submitted,



Susan MacKinnon, President



Barbara H. Perry, Secretary

TALBOT COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
ELECTION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

April 17, 2024

Notice and Distribution of Materials

Meeting materials were prepared and mailed to Board Members April 10, 2024.

A tentative meeting agenda was posted to the webpage April 9, 2024. The Agenda for the April meeting was posted on the Board of Elections office door and in the entrance of the building April 10, 2024.

Personnel: The County Support Tech started this month.
I have requested to hire for the Election Program Manager I position.

Meetings Attended:

I attended the monthly meeting with SBE and other local boards.

Correspondence:

All public information act requests have been responded to at this time. We are awaiting a response from the requester.

Voter Registration Activities:

Monthly Statistical Report- The Report was distributed to board members in the monthly packet. As of April 1, 2024, there were 28, 660 active registered voters in Talbot County and 1,738 Inactive voters, for a total voter count of 30, 398.

Voting System Activities:

Replacement of CMOS battery in the pollbooks is completed.
Proofing ballots and audio for the Ballot Marking Device.
User acceptance on the two new scanners has been deferred until after the primary. The scanners will not be put in service until they have gone through the process. The two scanners will be used for back ups.
Logics and analytics testing is underway.
The Public L&A demonstration is scheduled for April 19, 2024 at 10 a.m.

Candidate Filing:

Nothing to report.

Precinct and Polling Issues:

Election Judges- Election Judge training is winding down. An Election Judge Recruitment report was included in the board packets.

We have had some judges drop out. We are working on filling the positions.

Early voting sign ups have been sent to the judges. And the Election Judge Open House will be held April 18, 2024.

Budget:

A report documenting Board of Elections Expenditures for FY 2024 as of April 10, 2024 was included in the Board packets.

Other projects:

Ballot boxes were placed at the Bay Street office and at Easton Fire House. Mail-In Ballots are being sent out.

We have started receiving ballots in office.

Voter Guides and Sample Ballots are being sent out to voters who have not requested mail in ballots.

Dates for election activities and canvass have been posted on the webpage and around the office building.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

Early Voting- Thursday, May 2, 2024 to Thursday, May 9, 2024 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Easton Volunteer Fire House.

Town of St. Michaels is holding their election May 6, 2024.