

Howard County Citizens' Election Fund Commission
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

A duly advertised public meeting of the Howard County Citizens' Election Fund Commission was held virtually via WebEx on April 27th, at 6:00 p.m.

Commission Members Present:

Suzanne Geckle
Wendy Slaughter
Douglas Miller
David Loeffler
Ginna Rodriguez-Panqueva
Jennifer Bevan-Dangel

Staff Members Present:

- **Diane Zagorski**, Chief – Bureau of Tax & Specialty Services, Department of Finance, assigned to assist the Commission pursuant to Code Section 10.310 (h).
- **Brenna Punté-Pinos, Chief** - Bureau of Water/Sewer & Misc. Revenue, Department of Finance
- **Kristen Perry**, Deputy County Solicitor, Attorney for Finance
- **Amanda Mihill**, Assistant County Solicitor, Howard County Office of Law

As the Chair of the Commission, Ms. Geckle called the open meeting to order at approximately 6:04 p.m.

1. Administrative Items

- Mr. Miller motioned to approve the minutes from January 14, 2021 Meeting. Ms. Slaughter seconded the motion. There was a unanimous vote to approve the minutes.
- Ms. Geckle confirmed date of the next meeting will be scheduled for June 10, 2021 at 6:00p.m. This meeting will be to elect Chair & Vice-Chair.

2. Meeting with Jared DeMarinis

- A. DefMethod Software: Ms. Zagorski shared with the group that based on the meeting with Jared in January 2021, there is appetite with the Maryland State Board of Elections; however, due to costs and time constraints it is recommended to explore next election cycle. Costs are estimated to exceed \$1 million and would be more advantageous to divide costs for DefMethod

software after other municipalities begin public financing programs.

- B. Training: Ms. Zagorski shared with the group that she will be meeting with Jared on May 17th to review next steps related to training. It was further explained that in January 2021, Jared DeMarinis requested to revisit the topic of training in mid-May 2021.
- Ms. Geckle asked if State Board of Elections will be creating one training and add at the end of the presentation specifics for each County or if there will be separate trainings for each County. Ms. Zagorski to follow up with Jared regarding this question on May 17th.
 - Ms. Geckle requested Ms. Zagorski to request Jared DeMarinis to upload the updated Summary Guide, FAQs, and Rules of Procedures to the State Board of Elections website.

3. Training Videos

- Ms. Geckle informed the group that she pulled the transcripts for the training on the MD State Board of Elections website and started making comments. As of the date of this meeting Ms. Geckle advised she is about 75% done her review and will send to Ms. Zagorski once completed. Ms. Zagorski to share feedback/comments with State Board of Elections at the meeting on May 17th.

4. Misc

- Mr. Miller asked if the Council has the option to deny or reduce funding requested by the Commission.
- Ms. Perry & Ms. Mihill reviewed the code.
- Ms. Zagorski confirmed that the letter requesting \$500,000 funding for FY22 was sent to the County Executive and each member of the County Council on November 30th 2020.
- Ms. Zagorski advised that if any feedback or questions are asked of the Director's office regarding the FY22 funds, that she will share the feedback with the group.

5. Adjournment:

Upon motion by Mr. Loeffler and seconded by Mr. Miller, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at approximately 6:27pm.