

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 200
Columbia, MD 21046
Monday October 20, 2014 at 4:00 PM
Regular Open Board Meeting

PERSONS ATTENDING:

Board Members:

Ann Balcerzak – Board President
Donna Thewes – Board Vice President - Republican
Ray Rankin – Democratic Member
Patrick Mullinix – Republican (Sub)
Donna Rice – Democrat (Sub)
Mike Molinaro – Board Counsel

ABSENT MEMBERS:

None

Staff:

Guy C. Mickley – Director
Charlotte B. Davis – Deputy Director
Carol Hart – Board Secretary

VISITORS:

Jay Gerarden

Open Session:

Ms. Balcerzak, Board President opened the October Board Meeting at 4:03 p.m. with an established quorum present.

In preparation for the upcoming Gubernatorial General Election, the first order of business was for all Board Members to be sworn in as the Board of Canvassers. Arrangements had been made for Wayne Robey, Clerk of Circuit Court to be present to swear-in the Board Members as the Canvass Board. The swearing in occurred and the appropriate documentation was signed.

The next order of business was to review the minutes from the September 22, 2014 Board Meeting. With clarification regarding the Ballot on Demand printer being available only at the Board of Elections office and only used for the handicapped or disabled who had emailed their ballot and had taken the oath on-line, the minutes were accepted with a motion from Patrick Mullinix and a second expressed by Donna Rice. A unanimous vote was voiced by all

In addition, the minutes from the Special Post Certification Meeting of September 22, 2014, regarding the 2014 Primary Election were reviewed by the Board Members. Upon a request from President Balcerzak, a motion to accept the September Post Certification minutes was expressed by Patrick Mullinix and a second was made by Donna Rice. A unanimous vote was expressed by all.

An addition was added to the Agenda in regards to Polling Place Assignments by Vice President, Donna Thewes

President Balcerzak welcomed Jay Gerarden, an Anne Arundel County registered voter, as our guest for today's meeting.

COUNSELOR REPORT: Board Counsel, Attorney Molinaro reported he has received a list of Judges and contact information from Judge Gelfman's assistant. The information provided is for those Judges that have been assigned and available as go-to contacts regarding any legal issues that may arise, if needed, during the General Election and the three days during Canvassing of ballots.

Attorney Molinaro reported the first conference calls with SBE and the other Board attorneys began on September 30.

Discussions included in the conference calls were reminders regarding when Board of Canvass must be sworn in, that Board Members must be present during Canvass, Prosecutors would be looking for any vote tampering or other violations, clarified the requirements regarding when Candidate signs can be put up and taken down, SBE had met with members of campaigns and all knew what was expected and that they had pertinent contact information, information regarding exit polling, Challenger and Watcher rules; etc.

Attorney Molinaro informed Board that a group called Election Integrity Maryland will be watching for any voters who are registered and vote in both MD and Virginia. Six MD counties have been selected for observation on Election Day in regards to Exit Polling.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: President Balcerzak shared with the Board an update she had recently received from Attorney Karpinski's office regarding a follow-up to a filing. The Petitioners,

representing the Concerned Citizens of Howard County, had recently filed an appeal. The appeal was of Circuit Court Judge Tisdale's decision. Judge Tisdale had ruled, on the Circuit Court level, that the request for a judicial review was defective and therefore made the declaratory judgment action mute as they were both the same actions. The Court of Appeals denied their request for a judicial review. The petitioners filed an appeal of that decision in addition to an appeal regarding the \$6000 sanction. This request is now in front of the third level of Special Appeals Board. A motion was granted to dismiss as the decision on the issue had already been made. What happens with the Petitioners next plan is unknown because the ballot has been printed and Early Voting begins in a few days.

DIRECTOR REPORT:

Director Guy Mickley shared his response to an audit that was done by SBE regarding the 2014 Primary Election. Twenty three different areas are reviewed. He felt Howard County did well after all the various areas identified were investigated.

He informed the group that supplies are already packed and ready for Early Voting and Election Day. Howard County was one of the two chosen counties to do a double back-up plan by SBE. Ballots will be sent out to all D/P's as part of this contingency plan.

The warehouse is all done and ready for the public L&A. Patrick Mullinix attended as well as a Howard County Chief Judge.

The precinct registers were printed over the weekend as the books are now closed across the state. Judge positions are now filled and the recruiters have 27 alternates available should any judge not be able to work. The last day of judge training will be October 21.

Sample ballots have been mailed. So far over 2100 AB's have been mailed out and approximately 610 ballots have been returned. The last day for staff to mail out AB's is October 28, 2014.

Deputy Director Charlotte Davis updated the Board members that 27 voters have accessed the Wizard, as reported by a report from the IT department.

A few of the League of Women Voters have had their pictures taken and badges made as they will be visiting various Polling places on Election Day.

MISCELLANEOUS/NEW BUSINESS: Vice President Donna Thewes handed out a schedule to Board Members listing what Polling Places they were to visit on Election Day. She shared that SBE would like a report on the number of voters in line at opening and closing of the Polls they visit.

Charlotte Davis announced that Nursing Homes were being visited for those residents who had requested an absentee ballot. Donna Rice had also assisted her occasionally.

Mr. Mickley announced that equipment was being delivered and set-up at the Early Voting sites on October 22. Board Members were invited to visit or assist if they would like.

OLD BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business for the Board to address, President Ann Balcerzak called for a motion to close the Meeting 5:07 p.m. A motion to close today's Board meeting was made by Donna Rice and a second was voiced by Patrick Mullinix. A unanimous vote was expressed by all in attendance.

Open Session adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

The November Board Meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2014 after the third and final Canvass is finished. The meeting will be immediately after the end of the Canvass, at approximately 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

G. Carol Hart, Board Secretary

Ann M. Balcerzak, Board President