

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

MEETING MINUTES

9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 200
Columbia, MD 21046

Wednesday, December 14, 2016 – 11:30 am

Regular Open Board Meeting

ATTENDEES:

Board Members:

Donna K. Thewes	Board President, Republican Member
Ann M. Balcerzak	Vice President, Democratic Member
Patrick R. Mullinix	Republican Member
Raymond M. Rankin	Democratic Substitute
Diane L. Butler	Republican Substitute
Michael S. Molinaro	Board Counsel

Staff:

Guy C. Mickley	Director
Charlotte B. Davis	Deputy Director
Phyllis A. West	Board Secretary

Visitors: None

CALL TO ORDER AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Board President Donna Thewes called the meeting to order at 11:47 am with an established quorum present. The Pledge of Allegiance was then given.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Draft copies of the minutes from the October 24th and November 8th, 2016 meetings were provided to Board members by electronic mail prior to the meeting and a paper copy was made available for each at the meeting. Members made one revision to the October minutes at the suggestion of Board Counsel Mike Molinaro, which clarified that the *Primary Election* Board of Canvassers Meeting was referenced in these minutes, not the General Election Canvass Board, since the latter Board was sworn in on September 24, 2016. The header was changed to “Primary Board of Canvassers Meeting” and a reference under the ACTION section was also changed. Diane Butler then motioned to accept the October minutes as revised and Ray Rankin seconded the motion.

Action: The October minutes were unanimously accepted as revised.

Members then reviewed the November 8 minutes and had no changes. Patrick Mullinix motions to accept the minutes as presented and Diane Butler seconded the motion.

Action: The November minutes were unanimously accepted as presented.

ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Board members offered no additions or changes to the agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to discuss.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Donna Thewes had nothing to report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Guy Mickley stated that Howard County had no issues of consequence on Election Day, November 8, 2016. He reported that three poll books and one ballot marking device had been replaced on Election Day. In addition, one ballot scanner experienced a jam and was "rebooted" which return it to normal functioning. He then stated that Howard was the only county with over 25,000 voters which reported results to the State Board by the deadline to certify ten days after the Election. He congratulated the staff and board members for a successful election.

Director Mickley then updated the Board on FY2018 budget preparations for submission to the county. He indicated that the Board of Elections draft budget is almost complete and will be submitted by the January 23, 2017 deadline. He has already had discussions with our new county budget analyst and all is on track at this point.

BOARD COUNSEL REPORT:

Mike Molinaro, Esq., indicated there was nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

The first Post Certification Board of Canvassers Meeting will be held at this time.

RECESS OF BOARD MEETING TO CONVENE BOARD OF CANVASSERS MEETING

Donna Thewes asked for a motion to recess the Board meeting so that the Board of Canvassers meeting could be convened to address several Absentee Ballot issues. Diane Butler made a motion to recess the meeting, which was seconded by Ray Rankin.

Action: The Board unanimously voted to recess the Board meeting at 11:55 am.

At the conclusion of the Board of Canvassers Meeting, President Thewes reconvened the Board meeting at 12:10 pm.

She reported that fifty-three (53) Absentee Ballots received too late for the election had been rejected during the Board of Canvassers meeting. She stated that draft minutes from the three canvasses after the election would be presented for final approval at the next meeting of the Canvass Board on January 23, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Thewes asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Patrick Mullinix offered the motion, which was seconded by Diane Butler.

Action: The Board unanimously voted to adjourn the Board meeting at 12:10 pm.

The next regular open meeting of the Howard County Board of Elections is scheduled for Monday, January 23, 2017 at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phyllis A. West, Board Secretary

Donna K. Thewes, Board President