

MINUTES

July 7, 2021

MEETING OF THE ALLEGANY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
701 Kelly Road, Room 230, Cumberland, Maryland

ATTENDEES: John Stakem, President
Armand Pannone, Board Attorney
JoAnn Spiker, Member
Timothy Donaldson, Member
Debbie Johnson, Member
John Fetchero, Member
Diane Loibel, Election Administrator
Samantha Logsdon, Registrar

ABSENT: None

DECLARATION OF QUORUM PRESENT

Mr. Stakem called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M., and stated that there was a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Stakem called for alterations, corrections, and/or approval of the minutes. Mrs. Spiker made a motion to approve the June 2nd minutes. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Pannone did not have anything to report.

CORRESPONDENCE

The MAEO letter regarding cost sharing for the new electronic pollbooks was shared with all members.

ADDITIONS

Mrs. Loibel shared a document that covers changes to the Democratic Central Committee's Candidate Information Sheet. Also included was a document explaining the three gender categories and an explanation of gender balance for equal representation for the Democratic Central Committee candidates.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

OLD BUSINESS:

FY22 Budget

Mrs. Loibel informed the members that the FY22 budget will include the 15% increase that was requested for all staff members. Mrs. Loibel thanked the board for their support of this request.

MAEO Conference

A new tentative agenda was distributed to all members for the upcoming MAEO Conference as well as the 2021 Annual Meeting and Conference Information Sheet.

Registrar Update

Interviews for the Registrar position were held on June 21, 2021. Two candidates were brought in for second interviews on July 1, 2021. A name has been sent to the Commissioners who will have a three-day window for review of the potential candidate. I hope to introduce the new hire at the next board meeting.

Voting System Upgrade

Mrs. Loibel explained that after months of thorough testing, SBE will not be certifying EVS6110 for use in the 2022 Gubernatorial Elections. SBE indicated that inefficiencies discovered in portions of the software suite would negatively impact the election calendar. BMD allocations cannot be determined as we are still awaiting a settlement with the National Federation of the Blind. Additional BMDs may take up to six months after order to receive them into inventory. We will not know if we need additional Scanning Units until we receive the census data and redistricting is complete.

Candidate Filings

No candidates filed for office during the month of June.

NEW BUSINESS:

2020 Presidential Primary and General Election Audit Report

The 2020 Presidential Election Audit Report was provided to all members for their review. The only finding was that the minutes and MDVOTERS showed we had flip flopped one of the rejection codes for provisional ballots. We will be sure to double check this in all future elections. Mr. Stakem signed the response which was due back to SBE by June 18, 2021.

Early Voting & Alternate Early Voting MOUs

A working copy of the MOUs for Early Voting was sent to members for their review prior to the meeting. As you know, HB745 requires us to consider whether early voting centers are accessible to historically disenfranchised communities including voters with disabilities and cultural, ethnic, and minority groups. We are also awaiting wording on the language about camera surveillance and how to gain access to the recordings for our MOU. Once we have this information, we will review the document and vote on the MOUs. I

would like to get this on the Commissioner's consent agenda in the month of September. This way, if for some reason they deny our request, we will have time to find an alternate location. The early voting deadline to submit our site to SBE is November 29, 2021.

City of Cumberland MOU

I have placed a working copy of the City of Cumberland MOU that will need signed once the contact information has been confirmed.

GIS/Redistricting

Sam is in the process of comparing our street files in MDVOTERS against the street files provided to us from our GIS department. We hope to have this cleanup completed by the end of summer. We have been following Mary's suggestions from SBE regarding the street file cleanup within MDVOTERS. There will be a refresher training session on the integration of districts, precincts, splits, and polling places on July 14 or July 21. Currently, our GIS contact recently turned in her resignation so we will have a new person in this job during redistricting. The Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission held a virtual meeting for Frederick, Washington, Allegany, and Garrett counties on June 30, 2021. This was the first of three rounds of public meetings.

Disaster Recovery Plan

The process of updating the Disaster Recovery Plan has begun. I hope to have most of the pages updated by early fall. Once the plan has been fully updated, I will send it to all for their review.

Midland Special Election

The Town of Midland notified us on June 23rd that they would be having a special election on June 29th from 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm. This was needed to fill a vacancy for one of the council seats. Mr. John Monahan was appointed as the new mayor and his council seat is vacant. Since they had more than one interested party, they chose to hold a special election. A new precinct register and VACs were provided per their request.

FY22 Pollbook Project

The procurement for the pollbook project is now in the evaluation phase with the technical evaluation scheduled to conclude on June 22nd and the full evaluation (technical and financial) is currently scheduled to be completed on July 2nd.

Computer Systems and Software Security Updates:

Mrs. Loibel reports that office staff has successfully applied the Microsoft Security updates for the month of June on SBE workstations. We have also updated other third-party software applications to their latest versions on all workstations.

Registration Statistics:

Statistics as of June 30, 2021 were as follows: Total Active Registration 43,846, 12,465 Democrat, 22,620 Republican, 77 Green, 219 Libertarian, 34 Working Class, 21 Bread & Roses, 8,003 Unaffiliated, and 407 Others.

Board Members Report:

Mr. Stakem reported that he received a request to serve on the Zoning Board for the City of Frostburg and he is turning down this request. All three Republican board members reported that they will be attending the next Republican Central Committee's next board meeting per their request.

Disclosure of Campaign Contributions:

Mr. Fetchero reported that he donated \$150.00 to Dan Cox for Governor.

Next Meeting:

The next regular meeting will be held on August 4, 2021 at 9:00 A.M.

Adjournment:

Ms. Johnson made a motion for adjournment. Mr. Donaldson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Stakem adjourned the meeting at 10:26 A.M.