

BOARD MEMBERS

MICHAEL W. DETMER
PRESIDENT

THOMAS M. CORKRAN
VICE PRESIDENT

RALPH C. LEWIS JR.
SECRETARY

WILLIAM E. BATSON
BOARD MEMBER

ROBIN A. WILLEY
BOARD MEMBER



**DORCHESTER COUNTY
BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

HUBERT H. WRIGHT, IV
ATTORNEY

GWENDOLYN H. DALES
ELECTION DIRECTOR

BRITTANY M. PHILLIPS
ELECTION PROGRAM ASSISTANT

JESSICA R. NORANBROCK
ELECTION PROGRAM ASSISTANT

KIMBERLY K. JONES
ELECTION PROGRAM IT SPECIALIST II

SLOANE P. HURLEY
ELECTION PROGRAM ASSISTANT

ATTENDEES: Michael W. Detmer, President
Thomas M. Corkran, Vice President
Ralph C. Lewis, Secretary
William Batson, Member
Robin Willey, Member
Hubert H. Wright, IV, Attorney

Gwendolyn H. Dales, Election Director
Jessica Noranbrock, Election Asst.

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: None

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING December 14, 2021

Call to Order and Determine Quorum:

President Detmer called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM; quorum was determined.

Welcome any Guests:

None.

Report any Board or Staff Absences:

None.

Additions to Agenda:

None.

Approval of Minutes:

• **9.28.21 Minutes**

Mr. Lewis motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Batson. The minutes were approved.

• **10.26.21 Minutes**

Mr. Corkran motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Batson. The minutes were approved.

Election Director's Report:

- **Budget: FY2022 –October and November 2021 year/date/monthly expenditures**
Director Dales distributed the monthly budgets.

Old Business:

- **November 6, 2021 Hurlock Election – Mayor Cephas**
Director Dales informed the Board the Town of Hurlock Municipal Election went well and Mr. Cephas is now the Mayor of the Town of Hurlock.

New Business:

- **Review FY 2023 Proposed Budget**
Director Dales explained the two (2) versions of the proposed FY23 budget. One version includes the new pollbook cost at 50% and the other at 100%. Ms. Dales informed the Board she should hear soon if the Maryland Board of Public Works approves the contract at 50% cost for the Counties.

Mr. Corkran asked about the employee reclassification. Ms. Dales explained that three (3) staff members were eligible in 2020 to move from Election Program Assistant I to Election Program Assistant II. Ms. Dales felt it was fiscally inappropriate because of all the unplanned expenses incurred during the 2020 Elections, because of COVID-19. Mr. Lewis asked about Mrs. Jones retiring. Ms. Dales believes Mrs. Jones is going to wait. Mr. Lewis said her retirement is up to her and that he's good with that.

Mr. Lewis asked if all of our Election Judges would be returning for 2022, and if we have all of our polling places. Mrs. Noranbrock said that some of our longtime Judges won't be returning, but many are. She will be reaching out to new applicants after the first of the year. All polling places have given permission for our 2022 Elections to be held at their facilities, although we are still waiting on paperwork from a couple facilities. Ms. Dales informed the Board that St. Paul's said we are reserved and paid, since we paid for the facility in 2020 but ended up cancelling.

Ms. Willey asked for an explanation about the State Reimbursement portion of the proposed budget. Ms. Dales and Mrs. Noranbrock explained that depending on the outcome with the Board of Public Works, the Counties will have to either pay 50% or 100% of the cost for the pollbooks in FY23, less the approximately \$74,000 that can be financed.

Mr. Detmer asked if we should submit the budget with 100% of the pollbook cost included. Ms. Dales said that if both versions are approved today, she will notify the Board when she knows the exact cost of the pollbooks. Then we can submit the proposed budget with the appropriate amount listed for the cost of the pollbooks.

Mr. Corkran asked about the new printers and if we will be using the old pollbooks in 2022. Ms. Dales informed the Board we are supposed to have the new printers for the

2022 Primary Election to use with the old pollbooks. We anticipate using the new pollbooks for the 2024 Elections.

Mr. Lewis motioned to approve both versions of the FY 2023 budget as written, seconded by Mr. Corkran. The proposed FY 2023 budgets were approved.

FYI:

- **Cambridge Mayor – Special Election**

Director Dales read an article that said the City of Cambridge Commissioners have directed the City Attorney to draft a formal complaint to remove the City Mayor, following certain sections in their Charter for the process. Ms. Dales informed the Board that the City hasn't come to us about a special election to replace the Mayor, but they may. However, anytime between March and January we're busy running our own elections. Mr. Corkran asked if they changed their Charter; how would we run their election. Ms. Dales said they haven't changed their Charter, as far as she knows, regarding the City Election, but if they had a special election they could possibly hire us to run it for them, use the company they used in their last election, or have someone else run the election.

Mr. Detmer said we should put it on their radar that if they want us to run their City Election they need to change the date. Ms. Dales agreed, we may be able to run it for them in an off year. Mr. Detmer said we have the infrastructure to do it, like we do for Hurlock.

- **Dec. 15th Pollbook project 50/50 split to BPW**

Ms. Dales informed the Board the new pollbook contract is being presented to the Maryland Board of Public Works on December 15th, and that we should know whether our cost will be 50% or 100% shortly thereafter.

Additions to the Agenda:

Mr. Detmer mentioned the redistricting committee met and submitted plans to the County Council on November 15th. The Council has 90 days to propose changes, otherwise the plans are locked in on January 15th. Mr. Detmer said there were no huge changes, clean lines, and they follow the census blocks. Ms. Dales asked for copies of the maps to prepare for redistricting, and thanked Mr. Detmer for his service on the committee.

Closed Session – Personnel:

Mr. Corkran made a motion to go into a closed session, seconded by Mr. Batson. The Board went into a closed session at 10:47 AM. The regular meeting resumed at 11:06 AM.

Public Comment Following Closed Session:

The Board went into closed session to discuss the performance evaluation of an employee.

Confirmation of Next Meeting:

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 10:00 AM, in Room 110 of the Dorchester County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, MD 21613.

Adjournment:

Ms. Willey motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Corkran. The meeting adjourned at 11:16 AM.

APPROVED:








