

**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 October 22, 2020***

**Call to Order and Determine Quorum:**

President Detmer called the meeting to order at 9:18 AM; quorum was determined.

**Welcome any Guests:**

None

**Report any Board or Staff Absences:**

None

**Additions to Agenda:**

Director Dales would like to add the CTCL Grant information and untimely Primary mail-in ballots under "Old Business".

Mr. Detmer would like to add a few remarks about the Cambridge City Election.

Director Dales mentioned the Dorchester County Schools are closed, and at the present time Dorchester County has had the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest percentage increase in COVID-19 cases. She reminded everyone to be careful and to stay safe.

Mr. Lewis said he's had a lot of people ask him about schools shutting down and where they will be able to vote in person. Ms. Dales informed the Board that there is a billboard by Walmart with Election Day Vote Center information. Mr. Corkran asked if we put something in the local newspaper. Ms. Dales confirmed Election Day Vote Center information has been in the local newspaper. Mr. Detmer asked if we can order bigger signs to put at all the regular polling places. Ms. Dales did not think we could get new signs printed and installed in time for the election. Mr. Detmer suggested calling the high schools and asking them to put a message on their digital marques. Ms. Dales said we will ask. **(ACTION: High Schools were contacted and placed a message regarding the Election on their digital marques)**

**Approval of Minutes:**

- **10.2.20 Minutes**

Mr. Lewis motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Corkran, approved.

**Election Director's Report:**

- **Budget: FY2021 – September 2020 year/date/monthly expenditures**

Director Dales presented the monthly budget.

**Old Business:**

- **Not timely received ballots from Primary Election**

Staff member, Jessica Noranbrock, presented 10 ballots received since certification of the last election. Staff member, Brittany Phillips, tried to reach out to each person to inform them about their untimely ballot. Mr. Lewis motioned to reject the not timely ballots from the Primary Election, seconded by Mr. Corkran, motion passed.

- **Board of Education Letter**

Director Dales presented a letter from the Board of Education confirming use of the High Schools for the 2020 Presidential General Election.

**New Business:**

- **2020 Primary Election Audit Results**

Director Dales informed the Board there were zero discrepancies in our 2020 Presidential Primary Comprehensive Audit from the State.

- **2020 General Election Polling Place Evaluations**

Mr. Detmer confirmed he will be present to perform polling place evaluations on Election Day, but stated that any Board Member not comfortable should not participate.

**FYI:**

- **Canvass Dates:**

Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Vote by Mail – Board must attend 9 AM

Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> – Vote by Mail (if needed)

Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> – Provisional – Board must attend 10 AM

Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> – Vote by Mail – Board must attend, Time TBD

Director Dales clarified that the next canvass meeting the Board needs to attend will be on November 12<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM at the Election Warehouse.

**Additions to the Agenda:**

- **CTCL Grant**

Director Dales informed the Board that the Election Office applied for, and was awarded, a grant for \$22,351.50 through the Center for Technology and Civic Life (CTCL). The purpose of this grant is to support Dorchester County in our effort to plan and operate a safe and secure election during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Cambridge City Election**

Mr. Detmer would like to get the Board's opinion about how we can be proactive for the next City Election, and asked if there are things that need to be changed in the City's Charter. Director Dales summarized the interactions the Election office staff have had with the City of Cambridge. We met with the City Manager and City Attorney over a year ago to discuss discrepancies in their Charter regarding the City Election being on the Presidential ballot. We had many interactions and conversations with them over the past year, and made many suggestions. They did not take all suggestions. We opted out of administering their Election because they wanted it to be held as close to November as possible.

Mr. Detmer asked if they were to ask us to administer their election again, would it have to be moved, timewise. Ms. Dales feels our elections are becoming more and more involved, and will require more work leaving little time to run a municipal election during a Presidential Election year. We now have to provide precinct level results, in a General that means 39 different ballot styles, in a Primary it would more than double, with at least 80 ballot styles.

Mr. Detmer asked what the Board opinion would be if the City asked us to administer their election again. Ms. Dales asked for the Board Attorney's thoughts. Mr. Wright said that if the Board is not interested, then the answer is "No". Mr. Corkran agreed with Mr. Wright. Mr. Detmer also agreed, and said he was not advocating they do so, and asked that if the staff or Board has any comments about recommendations to put them in writing at their convenience.

Ms. Dales feels our responsibilities will not wane, they will increase. People may be more interested in mail-in ballots after this election. Mr. Detmer said the City Manger was on the local radio station, WHCP, and made it clear that the Board of Elections were a big help to them. Ms. Dales said we try to do everything we can to help. Mr. Detmer said he didn't believe anything else could be done and thanked the staff for being so helpful.

**Closed Session:**

- There was no need for a closed session.


**Confirmation of Next Meeting:**


The next board meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, December 22, 2020. The next meeting of the Board of Canvassers will be Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 10 AM at the Election Warehouse, 824 Fairmount Ave., Cambridge, MD 21613.

**Adjournment:**

Mr. Corkran motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Batson. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 AM.

**APPROVED:**

  
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