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MICHAEL W. DETMER
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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
William Batson, Member
Robin Willey, Member
Hubert H. Wright, IV, Attorney

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

ABSENT: Ralph C. Lewis, Secretary

GUESTS: None.

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING May 25, 2021

Call to Order and Determine Quorum:

President Detmer called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM, quorum was determined.

Welcome any Guests:

None.

Report any Board or Staff Absences:

Ralph C. Lewis, Secretary

Additions to Agenda:

Mr. Detmer will have personal remarks for the closed session, other than the performance evaluation. Mr. Detmer also would like to discuss the current office/warehouse situation.

Approval of Minutes:

• **3.23.2021 Minutes**

Mr. Corkran motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Batson, approved. Mr. Detmer and Ms. Willey abstained because they were not present at the 3.23.2021 meeting.

Election Director's Report:

- **Budget: FY2021 – March & April 2021 year/date/monthly expenditures**
Director Dales distributed the monthly budgets.

Old Business:

- **MAEO Dates – Aug. 22nd – 27th, Biennial on the 25th**
Director Dales informed the Board that the Biennial is available virtually and went over the registration form. The tentative agenda was distributed.
ACTION: Staff will contact the Board in a week or two (2) to confirm plans.

New Business:

- **Final Legislative Update**
Director Dales went over the Legislative Summary. Since vote centers were not addressed during the legislative session, we will be going back to our usual twenty-one (21) polling places. We will still have Same Day Registration at all polling places. As we all know connectivity throughout Dorchester County may be an issue.

Another bill that passed requires an absentee application be sent to every voter. This will double the postage due for absentee ballots. Mr. Corkran asked if the application is for the Permanent Absentee List. Ms. Dales said there will be a check box on the application for voters to select if they wish to be placed on the permanent list.

Ms. Willey mentioned that the Vote Centers worked well. Ms. Dales agreed, but said we would probably need another one if the State were to go that route. COVID-19 isn't gone and it would be difficult to set up twenty-one (21) polling places with enough safety precautions.

Closed Session – Personnel – Performance Evaluation:

- **Closed Session**
 - Mr. Corkran motioned for the Board to go into Closed Session; seconded by Ms. Willey. The Board went into Closed Session at 2:24 PM.
 - The Board resumed the regular meeting at 2:55 PM.
- **Public Comment following Closed Session**
Mr. Detmer commented that during the Closed Session the Board completed the Performance Evaluation and discussed a certain section of the bylaws regarding a Board Member. Mr. Detmer disclosed to the Board he attended a fundraiser for Congressman Harris.

FYI:

- **Pollbooks Information expected June 2021**
Director Dales said there has still been no decision made, but we will possibly know in June. Ms. Dales said this will be expensive; the new printers required will be at 100% cost to the County. Mr. Detmer asked if there might be a holding pattern due to waiting on Federal laws to pass. Ms. Dales was not sure, but we need to be ahead of the curve.

We don't necessarily want the latest and greatest technology, but we can't continue to use antiquated equipment.

Ms. Willey asked about the timeline. Will we be okay in 2022 using the current pollbooks? Ms. Dales said we have been told we will have new equipment before the primary; we will, most likely, not be using the current pollbooks for the 2022 election. There is a possibility we won't have to make a payment on the new pollbooks until FY2023, depending on how the financing works out. Ms. Willey asked if the final decision comes from SBE and Ms. Dales said yes.

- **Dem. Nominee SBE**

Director Dales distributed an article about the nominee selected to replace current SBE Board Member, P.J. Hogan (D) when his term expires.

- **Post – Election Maintenance complete**

Director Dales informed the Board that staff has been working at the warehouse and that post-election maintenance on all machines has been completed.

- **Hurlock Election (Nov. 6th 2021)**

Mr. Detmer asked which races will be on the Hurlock ballot. Director Dales informed the Board the following races will be on the Hurlock ballot: Mayor, Councilmember District 1, Councilmember District 2, and Councilmember at Large. Mr. Detmer asked if we will be involved. Ms. Dales said we will be running their Election. Mr. Detmer asked what equipment will be used. Ms. Dales said we will not be using any pollbooks; we will be using a printed precinct register, similar to how it was done in the past, and will have helpdesk support the entire day.

Additions to the Agenda:

- **President Detmer: Current Office/Warehouse Situation**

Mr. Detmer mentioned that we've been discussing the need for a new office and warehouse space. The County is getting COVID-19 Relief money and if they are looking for something constructive to do, we may be a good candidate. Director Dales asked if we have to come to the table with a location and plans, or should she and President Detmer have a conversation with the County. Mr. Detmer suggested we put it on their radar, that their grant money be spent on something useful. He would be happy to have the conversation with Ms. Dales and the County. Ms. Dales acknowledged that there have been developmental increases in our processes and responsibilities. Everyone knows we have outgrown this building.

Mr. Corkran asked what kind of funds Mr. Detmer is talking about. Mr. Detmer said millions. Mr. Corkran said there are a lot of properties for sale, and that it is cheaper to build new rather than fix up a building that is in shambles.

Mr. Detmer asked for a motion to direct Ms. Dales to reach out to the County Manager to open a dialogue. Mr. Corkran asked if we expect her to do the legwork. Mr. Detmer said

we could use something we already have, we've done research. We can mention it to them and see if they'd like to put us on their plate. Mr. Corkran asked if there was anything County-owned that would be suitable. Nothing was mentioned that anyone was aware of. Mr. Corkran motioned for Director Dales to reach out to the County to see if they will consider a new office/warehouse facility with their COVID-19 relief funds; seconded by Ms. Willey; there were no objections.

ACTION: Director Dales will reach out to the County Manager to open a dialogue about the County considering a new office/warehouse facility with their COVID-19 relief funds.

Confirmation of Next Meeting:

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 28th, 2021 at 10:00 AM, in Room 110 of the Dorchester County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, MD 21613.

Adjournment:

Mr. Corkran motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Batson. The meeting adjourned at 3:11 PM.

APPROVED:

Michael Detmer

H. C. Lipp

Robin A. Willey

William E. Paton

jrn