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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 Gwendolyn H. Dales, Election Director
Ralph C. Lewis, Secretary Jessica Noranbrock, Election Asst.
William Batson, Member
Robin Willey, Member
Hubert H. Wright, IV, Attorney

ABSENT: Thomas M. Corkran, Vice President

GUESTS: Ms. Sarah Gavian, Chair, Democratic Central Committee

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING September 28, 2021

Call to Order and Determine Quorum:

President Detmer called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM; quorum was determined.

Welcome any Guests:

Mr. Detmer welcomed Ms. Sarah Gavian

Report any Board or Staff Absences:

Thomas M. Corkran, Vice-President

Additions to Agenda:

There were no additions to the agenda; however, Director Dales mentioned that today, September 28, is National Voter Registration Day. Facebook will be asking subscribers if they need to register to vote or update their registration, and we created a post on our page that links to the State voter registration site.

Approval of Minutes:

• **5.25.21 Minutes**

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

Election Director's Report:

- **Budget: FY2021 –May - August 2021 year/date/monthly expenditures**
Director Dales presented the monthly budgets.

Old Business:

- **Approved FY 2022 Budget**
Director Dales distributed the approval from the County Council for the FY 2022 budget.

New Business:

- **Oct. 5th County Council Agenda – Early Voting Center Agreement & Election Activities**

Director Dales informed the Board that our request to use certain areas of the building for Early Voting and Election Judge Training, and the Early Voting Center Agreement was submitted to the County Council's office. These items will be on their October 5th agenda.

ACTION: Once the Early Voting Center Agreement is approved we will scan in the document and email to President Detmer for his signature.

FYI:

- **SBE Audit – 100% Compliant**
Director Dales informed the Board that SBE completed their audit of Dorchester's 2020 Primary and General Elections and there were no discrepancies found. President Detmer mentioned that there were six (6) counties in Maryland that were 100% compliant and said, "Kudos to our office staff and Election Judges."
- **SBE Approved 50/50 Split Pollbooks & Printers**
Director Dales informed the Board that 100% of the cost of the new pollbooks originally was going to be billed to the Counties, but the State has approved a 50/50 split for the cost. Mr. Detmer said that MACO was very proud of their work in getting this passed, it was going to be a very big expense for the Counties. Ms. Willey asked how much the old pollbooks cost. Ms. Dales wasn't sure but they were paid for over ten (10) years ago. She also mentioned that State said we will be using the old pollbooks for the 2022 Elections because of the time required to develop the new pollbooks.
- **Federation of the Blind Settlement – BMDs 50% & 25%**
Ms. Dales explained the conditions of the settlement. Last election there had to be at least five (5) voters use the BMDs (Ballot Marking Devices) during Early Voting and on Election Day. Part of the settlement increases that number to ten (10) voters. Also, 50% of our polling places must have 2 BMDs, and 25% of our furthest polling places must have 2 BMDs.

Mrs. Noranbrock said that in the 2020 General Election 39% of voters marked their ballot on BMDs during Early Voting, and 46% on Election Day. Overall, 28% of voters chose to mark their ballot on a BMD, so an increase in some of our polling places may be warranted. In previous Elections, voters were told at Check-In that there is an accessible

way to read and mark their ballot. In 2020, it was mandated by the State that voters be offered the BMD at the ballot station, instead. Voters were asked, "You can mark your ballot by hand or by electronic device, which do you prefer?" Ms. Dales believes this change in the script is the reason the BMDs were so popular.

Mr. Detmer asked if Elliott Island; our farthest and smallest polling place, with approximately forty (40) registered voters, would be allocated two (2) BMDs. Ms. Dales confirmed and explained the logic behind that is because if they had only one (1) BMD and it wasn't working properly, it would take over an hour for us to bring them a replacement BMD from the warehouse.

- **Mock Election Oct/Nov**

Ms. Dales explained the Mock Election process from the State, and that it is testing all equipment for any issues.

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

Ms. Dales informed the Board that the Town of Hurlock's Municipal Election is usually held at the Hurlock Fire Hall, but this year it will be held at the Hurlock Elementary School that is across the street from the fire hall. Mr. Detmer mentioned that the Town of Hurlock has been talking about possibly building a new, larger fire hall. He asked if we would be able to have both polling places we normally have in Hurlock, during a State Election, combined and relocated to one larger facility. Ms. Dales said, possibly. If they were two (2) separate areas within the location.

- **Quarterly Pay**

Ms. Dales informed the Board that their quarterly pay will be submitted and paid a few days earlier, per the Finance Department.

- **Election Judge Letters & Polling Place Permission Letters sent**

Ms. Dales informed the Board that the Election Judge Interest forms for the 2022 Elections, and the polling place permission letters requesting use of schools, fire halls and church halls, were all sent out this week.

- **New Office – County Manager**

Ms. Dales informed the Board that she has been waiting for a permanent County Manager. As far as she knows, they haven't hired one, yet. Mr. Detmer agreed and said that they've had to re-advertise for the position and that it's been vacant for around eight (8) months.

Additions to the Agenda:

President Detmer asked Ms. Sarah Gavian to introduce herself. He then asked if she planned on attending future meetings. Ms. Gavian said the committee is currently sending people to different meetings throughout the County to see what they're working on. Mr. Detmer thanked Ms. Gavian for joining us and said he looked forward to seeing her again.

Confirmation of Next Meeting:

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at 10:00 AM, in Room 110 of the Dorchester County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, MD 21613.

Ms. Willey will be absent at the next meeting.

Adjournment:

Ms. Willey motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Batson. The meeting adjourned at 10:42 AM.

APPROVED:










