

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 200
Columbia, MD 21046
Monday, April 27, 2015 at 4:00 PM
Regular Open Board Meeting

PERSONS ATTENDING:

Board Members:

Ann Balcerzak – Board President
Donna Thewes – Board Vice President – Republican
Ray Rankin – Democratic Member
Patrick Mullinix – Republican (Sub)
Mike Molinaro – Board Counsel

Absent:

Donna Rice – Democrat (Sub)

Staff:

Guy C. Mickley – Director
Charlotte B. Davis – Deputy Director
Carol Hart – Board Secretary

Visitors:

Diane Butler

OPEN SESSION: Ms. Balcerzak, Board President, called the April Open Board Meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. with an established quorum present. President Balcerzak welcomed Ms. Diane Butler who will be joining the Board as an active member on June 1, 2015.

The first order of business for the Board was to review and approve the minutes from the Regular Open Boarding Meeting. The minutes were approved, with noted corrections, by a motion from Donna Thewes and a second by Ray Rankin. Unanimous approval was voiced by all Board members in attendance. The Post Canvass minutes of March 30, 2015, with noted corrections, were also approved with a motion by Ray Rankin and a second by Patrick Mullinix. Unanimous approval was voiced by all.

UPDATES and CORRESPONDENCE: Ms. Balcerzak shared with the Board members a copy of the letter of condolence mailed to the family of Jerry Richman and a copy of response letter mailed to the Wilde Lake Community Association regarding polling place locations.

PRESIDENT REPORT: Nothing to report. It was noted that the Board is to discuss in the May or June meeting, the issues guest David Zinner had brought to the Board in a previous meeting.

DIRECTOR REPORT: See Attached

Mr. Mickley distributed copies of the Monthly Statistical Report to the Board Members and a copy of the FY 2016 Budget information. Director Mickley shared that he is working with approximately 1.2 million dollars for the new voting system that is being implemented. He feels that Howard County will have sufficient monies to cover the cost of all purchases required for implementing the new system. Storage of the equipment is a concern and a resolution will be explored.

Mr. Mickley made the Board aware that Carol Hart had represented the office at the Howard County Women's Fest Expo on April 25, 2015. She reported that minimal voter registration applications, update forms and/or election judge applications were handed-out due to a lack of high attendance this year.

It was learned that training for all State Employees, regarding discrimination, is required and supposed to re-occur every 2 years. However, this has not happened over many years. This issue will be corrected by training at the MAEO Conference.

Director Mickley announced that Janet Ferrell will be retiring as of April 30. The office will be having a breakfast in her honor on her last day. Board Members were invited to attend.

NEW BUSINESS: Director Mickley announced to the Members that their maryland.gov account is now activated. He shared what they will need in order to sign-in and access the State Library.

COUNSELOR REPORT: Mr. Molinaro briefly discussed the status of Bills that had been introduced and passed during the last Legislative session that would impact the Election office. One of the concerns regarded the Director being required to make an Advance Determination related to any petition submitted. As it stands, the Advance Determination bill passed and was signed. This bill requires the Director, if a petition is rejected, to inform Petitioners what is wrong and/or reason for rejection with the Referendum submitted but not required to tell the Petitioners how to fix their problem. The bill was amended to allow the Director to enlist assistance and/or guidance from the Attorney General. Counselor Molinaro will do some follow-up investigating, regarding Advance Determinations involving petitions submitted, and report back at a future meeting.

OLD/UPDATED BUSINESS: Donna Thewes reminded Members that their Ethics Report is due by the end of April. Carol will make contact with Donna Rice reminding her of the due date for her report.

President Balcerzak reminded the Board Members that May will be her last meeting as President. The next meeting date is May 25 but it was decided that the meeting would be held June 1 as the May 25 is Memorial Day. This would also allow time for the new Board Members to be sworn in by Wayne Robey, Clerk of Circuit Court prior to the MAEO Conference. Ms. Balcerzak thanked everyone for their assistance during her term as Board President.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further discussion of any other Reports and no New Business, President Balcerzak called for a motion to close the meeting. A motion was made by Ray Rankin and a second by Patrick Mullinix. A unanimous vote was expressed by all.

The Open Board meeting closed at 5:05 p.m.

The next scheduled Open Board Meeting will be on June 1, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

G. Carol Hart, Board Secretary

Ann M. Balcerzak, Board President