

HOWARD COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 200

Columbia, MD 21046

Monday, February 23, 2015 at 4:00 PM

**Regular Open Board Meeting**

**PERSONS ATTENDING:**

**Board Members:**

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

**ABSENT MEMBERS:**

Donna Thewes – Board Vice President – Republican

**Staff:**

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

**VISITORS:**

Joel Hurewitz

**OPEN SESSION:** Ms. Balcerzak, Board President, opened the February Open Board Meeting at 4:15 p.m. with an established quorum present. The first order of business was to approve the minutes from the Regular Boarding Meeting from November 14, the Special Executive Board Meeting held on November 20, 2014, conducted so the Board could discuss a personnel matter, and an Executive Board Meeting from December 17, 2014. The first order of business was to review the minutes from three previous Board Meetings from November and December 2014.

The minutes from the Regular Open Board Meeting dated November 14, 2014 were approved, with amendments noted, by a motion from Donna Rice and a second by Patrick Mullinix. Unanimous approval was voiced by all Board members in attendance.

The minutes from the November 20, 2014 Special Executive Board Meeting were accepted by a motion from Ray Rankin and a second by Patrick Mullinix. A unanimous vote was expressed by all Board members in attendance.

The Special Open Board Meeting Minutes from December 17, 2014 were accepted, with amendments noted, by a motion from Patrick Mullinix and a second by Donna Rice. Unanimous approval was voiced by all members in attendance.

**NEW BUSINESS:** President Balcerzak welcomed a registered Voter of Howard County, Joel Hurewitz, in regard to issues he had previously brought to the Boards attention at the November 14, 2014 meeting. He wanted to discuss any progress the Board had made regarding polling places 5-16 and 5-23 Wild Lake High School/Bryant Woods location. Mr. Hurewitz reiterated his perception that voters were being inconvenienced in that voters located in these developments must crisscross and/or bypass other polling locations to get to their home polling locations. Mr. Hurewitz shared with the Board that he had attended the Association Meeting for both developments and had brought to the attendees attention this issue and the possibility of how this might impact voter turnout. He expressed his position that changing precinct lines would be appropriate for resolving this issue. Mr. Hurewitz stated that both of the Associations had written letters and/or emailed Mr. Mickley regarding their concern of the polling location lines perhaps being geographically inconvenient for some voters. Mr. Mickley shared that he had received a letter from the Wild Lake Community Association but had only received a short email from the Bryant Woods Community Association but no letter/memo was attached to the email. Mr. Hurwitz stated he would forward a copy of the letter from the Bryant Woods Community Association that he received, to Mr. Mickley.

Director Mickley and the Board shared with Mr. Hurewitz some of the various factors that go into choosing where a voting location would best serve the voters. However, the Board did inform today's guest that his points and suggestions were heard at the previous meeting he attended. Mr. Hurewitz was informed that the Board did not meet in December, except for a Special Executive Meeting, and did not meet in January due to inclement weather. Therefore, the Board and Director have not had the opportunity to discuss his concerns regarding Wilde Lake and /or Bryant Woods. Mr. Hurwitz was invited to attend future Open Board Meetings to see if and what progress had been made to address the concerns centering on D/P 5-16 and 5-23 or justification why precinct boundary line changes should not be made.

**PRESIDENT REPORT:** Nothing to report

President Balcerzak shared that the review of the Post Gubernatorial Election Canvass Minutes would need to be postponed until the March Board Meeting because the Canvas Secretary was out of town and the minutes were unavailable until Ms. Thewes returns. Any Absentee ballots for the 2014 General Election received, that required the Canvass Board's attention, would also be addressed in the March meeting.

**DIRECTOR REPORT:** See Attached

In addition, Director Mickley shared with the Board that Howard County had made contact with him and requested he attend a meeting with the new leasing office. A ten year lease agreement was negotiated beginning 2016. The property management also agreed to lower the rent for the first six years. Mr. Mickley made a request that the office carpet is cleaned throughout and some of the rooms be painted. Director Mickley shared that he was waiting for the County Council's approval.

Once the new voting equipment is received, voter outreach will be aggressively demonstrated to the public so voters can see how it will work for the 2016 elections.

Director Mickley shared with the Board that a fourth Early Voting site for Howard County has been approved by the State. Various potential locations have been visited and three locations were presented to the Board. The criteria for deciding on the location recommendations were based on the number of registered voters within a five mile radius of the selected location. The three recommendations were; Gary J Arthur Center at Glenwood, Clarksville Fire Department or Stone House located in Columbia and near the community of Long Reach. Mr. Mickley would recommend that the fourth Early Voting site be used only for the General Election only.

President Balcerzak and the Board opted to vote today on which location they felt would be the best choice in the interest of the voters. Ms. Balcerzak requested a motion for a recommendation for the fourth Early Voting site. Ray Rankin made a motion to select Stone House, or an available location near the community of Long Reach. A second was expressed by Patrick Mullinix. Unanimous vote was expressed by all.

The MAEO conference dates were announced as June 9 thru 11, 2015 and it will be held at the Grand Hotel in Ocean City. This year the conference will be both the States bi-annual and the annual MAEO meeting. The Wednesday meeting will be the State Bi-Annual and Thursday will be the MAEO Conference. Director Mickley recommended the Board attend both days and attend as many of the various seminars as possible because the main discussions will be on the new voting system and much to be learned.

**COUNSELOR REPORT:** Counsel Mike Molinaro suggested the Board look at future meeting dates due to upcoming holidays as well as the dates of the scheduled conference. It was suggested the May and June meeting be combined. This topic will be discussed at the March meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no further discussion of any other Reports and no New Business, President Balcerzak called for a motion to close the Open Board Meeting. A motion was made by Patrick Mullinix to close the meeting and a second was voiced by Donna Rice. The Open Board Meeting closed at 5:55 p.m.

The next scheduled Open Board Meeting will be on March 23, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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G. Carol Hart, Board Secretary

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Ann M. Balcerzak, Board President