

St. Mary's County Board of Elections

23250 Leonardtown Hollywood Road
Leonardtown, MD 20650

Board Meeting Minutes of 3 February 2021

Present:

Board Members:

Rebecca Wathen, Board Secretary (D)
Kenneth Boothe, Member (R)
Ann Raley, Member (D)
Mary Coombs, Member (R)

Staff Members:

Wendy Adkins, Director
Susan Julian, Deputy Director

Cynthia Panos, Board Attorney

Absent: Jack Payne, Board President (R)

At 9:00 AM, Ms. Rebecca Wathen, Board Secretary, determined that there was a quorum present and called the meeting to order.

Guests Present: Via Telephone, Marian Klapka

Documents Distributed:

- Meeting Minutes of December 2, 2020

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the December 2, 2020 meeting, were presented. A motion was made by Ms. Coombs to approve the minutes, with corrections from the floor, seconded by Mr. Boothe. Motion carried.

Meeting Agenda: The meeting agenda was reviewed. No revisions or additions were noted.

Director's Report: Ms. Adkins reported the following:

- **Office Status:** The office employees are still under mandatory teleworking. They are checking the mail and the office on a regular basis and operations are still progressing.
- **Warehouse Status:** Ms. Adkins reported that all warehouse materials have been relocated from the Lincoln Avenue location to the Leonardtown location. All resources are now located in a single location. The alarm for the Leonardtown location still needs to be installed.
- **Roof Replacement:** The roof on the addition to the Leonardtown location is in the process of being replaced. Once completed, then carpeting will also be replaced. Additional damage occurred during the recent weather events which has put them behind schedule.
- **Poll Books:** The State Board of Elections is in the process of purchasing new Poll Books which will be received prior to the 2022 election. Arrival of the poll books is expected by the end of the summer. There is a focus group that has been established for the poll books (Jay Jones and Brandi Underwood are members of the focus group).
- **Precinct Results:** MAEO is working on a method to make precinct results more manageable for the 2022 election since they are here to stay. The Gubernatorial Elections means that the ballot styles will increase from 36 to 72. (108 ballot styles if there is an unaffiliated ballot.) Some counties in the state may have as many as 300 ballot styles. Recommendations are to use the Ballot Marking Devices (BMDs) at early voting or have some sort of printer connected to the poll books in order to print the correct ballot style for each voter.

Old Business:

- **MAEO Conference:** MAEO's goal is to hold an in-person conference in conjunction with the State Biennial meeting. They are considering an August or September date. There is another meeting on February 9 and more information should be available at that time.

New Business:

- **Legislation:** Ms. Adkins advised that the proposed legislative election bills are available on the Maryland General Assembly website.
 - **HB211** – Early Voting Center / MAEO Opposes / The bill would change early voting from Thursday to Thursday to Saturday.
 - **SB58** – Board Members / MAEO has no opinion / The bill would change the membership of each County Board's to the majority being the party of the most registered voters in the respective County.
 - **HB247** – Guyton Election Law / MAEO Opposes / The bill would allow those voters needing extra assistance to bypass the line of voters and go directly to the front of the line.
 - **HB656** – Early Voting Accessibility / MAEO Opposes / The bill would require early voting sites to be accessible by Public Transportation.
 - **HB655** – County Commissioner Elections / MAEO Opposes / The bill changes the election of County Commissioners from open voting for all positions, to voting by district for the district representation. This would again increase the number of ballot styles needed in our county.
- **Manual Audits:** This is the audit required by law. It has been scheduled for February 17, 2021 at 10 AM at the Board of Election office in Leonardtown. The required Public Notice is being posted today. In person observation is permitted with advanced registration. There are 2100 ballots that need to be counted. Ms. Adkins will be using Election Judges to supplement the office staff in conducting the Audit. The precincts being audited are Great Mills High School, first day of early voting, the provisional ballots, and the mailed in ballots. The snow date is February 24, 2021.
- **Annual Ethics Filing:** Board Members were reminded that they are required to submit their annual ethics paperwork electronically prior to April 30, 2021.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be March 3, 2021 at 9 AM in the Leonardtown office.

A motion was made by Mr. Boothe to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Coombs. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:23 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rebecca J. Wathen
Board Secretary