

FREDERICK COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

340A Montevue Lane

Frederick, MD 21702

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MINUTES of the April 3, 2019 Monthly Meeting of The Frederick County Board of Elections

The meeting was called to order at 12:31 PM, in Room 119 of the Frederick County Board of Elections Office, located at 340A Montevue Lane, by the Board President, Mrs. Mary Lou Green.

PRESENT:

Mary Lou Green, President	Stuart Harvey, Election Director
Mark P. Jeffers, Jr., Vice President	Marc R. Welch, Election Administrative Assistant
Lawrence C. Hill, Secretary	MC Keegan-Ayer, County Council President
Carlotta C. Joyner, Board Member	
William L. Woodcock, Board Member	
Daniel B. Loftus, Board Attorney	

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

Mr. Harvey added two items to New Business: state-mandated sexual harassment prevention training, and the salary proposal from SBE/MAEO to local governments.

GUESTS:

Incoming Board Members Mary Costello, and Shirley McDonald attended the meeting. Additionally, Deborah Carter, Democratic Central Committee Chair, and Craig Giangrande, Republican Central Committee Chair attended the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MARCH 6, 2019 MEETING:

Mr. Woodcock made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Ms. Joyner seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS:

MC Keegan-Ayer, Council President reports the County Executive's FY20 budget will be released on April 15, 2019.

ELECTION DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Harvey welcomed the two incoming board members, as well as guests. He will provide an update on pending legislation, and discuss the latest on the salary proposal from SBE.

OLD BUSINESS

FY19 BUDGET:

Mr. Harvey provided an overview of the current status of budget accounts. The General Office fund has sufficient funds. The Board discussed balances in the various accounts. There's money left over in the general election accounts, and early voting accounts. Council liaison advised the Board of an upcoming County Council workshop regarding possible special election legislation, and invited Mr.

Harvey to attend. Mr. Harvey discussed possible expenses to conduct a special election. Mrs. Keegan-Ayer will advise Mr. Harvey of the date and time of the workshop.

2019 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION:

Mr. Harvey provided an overview of the elections-related bills filed as of this meeting.

HB071/ SB184	State Board of Elections – Open Meetings – Video Streaming and Recording (State Board of Elections Transparency Act)	MAEO supports. Passed both.
HB172	Voter Registration Deadlines and Security of Voter Registration Information	MAEO supports. Passed.
HB174	Absentee Ballot Requests – Last Four Digits of SSN	Passed.
HB176	Candidates – Revisions	Passed.
HB177	Judicial Proceedings Involving Local Boards of Elections - Notice	Passed.
HB237	Early Voting Centers – Hours of Operation	Passed House. Senate pending.
HB252/ SB936	Correctional Facilities – Voting Coordinators	Passed House. Senate pending.
HB286/ SB449	Registration and Voting at Precinct Polling Places (SDR)	House version passed.
HB577	County Employee Service as Election Judge – Administrative Leave	House passed. Senate pending.
HB590	Howard County Board of Education – Election of Members (Howard Co. 01-19)	Passed.
HB673/ SB921	Frederick County – Ethics and Campaign Activity – County Board and Commission Members and Board of License Commissioners	Passed.
HB747	Links to Online Voter Registration	Pending.
HB830	County Public Campaign Financing - Administration	Passed.
HB1025/ SB123	Coordinated Expenditures and Donations – Investigation	Passed with Amendments.
HB1430/ SB1050	Congressional Districting Plan – Sixth and Eighth Congressional Districts	Unlikely to pass.

SB230	Canvassing of Absentee Ballots – Reporting Unofficial Results	Likely to pass.
SB343	Voting by Absentee Ballot – Prepaid Postage for Return of Ballots	Pending.
SB364	Election Day Page Program	Senate Passed.
SB449/ HB286	Registration and Voting at Precinct Polling Places (SDR)	Amended to match House. Passed.
SB651	Local Boards of Elections – Membership	Senate Passed. Currently in House Committee.
SB743	Election Service Providers – Contract Clauses and Termination of Contract	Pending.
SB1004	Election Calendar and Processes - Revisions	Favorable from Committee.

REDISTRICTING:

Mr. Harvey updated the Board on redistricting legislation in Annapolis. Senate and House bills are both in Rules Committee, but neither are likely to proceed. Mr. Loftus attended the Supreme Court hearing on March 26 in the case of *Benisek v. Lamone* and provided commentary on the experience. Mr. Loftus feels the Supreme Court may send the case back to the lower court, and not order that the 6th Congressional District be redrawn for the 2020 election. Mr. Harvey discussed the expenses if the Board is required to move all of Frederick County back to the 6th District.

VOTING LOCATION CHANGES FOR 2020:

Mr. Harvey updated the Board on possible relocation of EV-01, and Precincts 18-002 and 24-001.

Trinity School won't be available for a new location for EV-01 since the City wants to retain the facility for other activities.

Mr. Harvey and Mr. Welch visited precinct 18-002 and found a possible new location at another church in the area. The church board met and decided to decline due to concerns about possible controversial signage during the election. There really isn't another suitable site in the precinct, but staff will continue to explore options. Mr. Jeffers asked if it was possible to erect a tent to provide additional shelter for voters waiting in line. Mr. Harvey will discuss options with Prospect UMC, the current polling location for Precinct 18-002.

Mr. Harvey and Mr. Welch also visited Precinct 24-001 and found two possible locations for polling places. One church, located on Bowers Road is suitable with ample parking at a large facility, and the staff will meet with the location as soon as possible.

ELECTION CENTER WORKSHOP:

Mr. Welch will attend the class portion of the Virginia Beach conference. He will be taking Course #9 "Enfranchisement, Enhancement, Enforcement: Modern Federal Election Law & Regulation: 1965 to Present." The Board discussed the workshop.

MAEO CONFERENCE:

Mr. Harvey provided the Board with a revised agenda. Mr. Harvey will present a legislative update at the conference on Wednesday, and staff will attend an all-day Table-top Exercise (TTX.) on Thursday. The Board discussed the agenda, and break-out sessions. Mr. Welch updated the Board on the MAEO election.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT REQUEST:

Mr. Harvey updated the Board on the Health Department request to contact election judges to serve as staff for emergency health sites. Mr. Harvey will work with the Health Department to send letters to the judges. The Board discussed the content of the letter.

NEW BUSINESS

SEXUAL HARASSMENT PREVENTION TRAINING:

Mr. Harvey provided an overview of the upcoming state-mandated sexual harassment prevention training for staff, on April 10, 2019, 9:30 am in our training room. Western MD counties will attend. Mr. Harvey will be attending the supervisor training on April 15, 2019 in Annapolis. The Board discussed the training.

SALARY PROPOSAL – LOCAL BOARDS OF ELECTION:

Mr. Harvey informed the Board of a letter from the State Board of Elections to the County Executive regarding reclassification of all state election staff at the local boards. The proposed reclassification would modernize job descriptions, and provide an across the board salary increase. The State Board is requesting feedback on the proposal from all 24 county leaders. Mr. Harvey provided an overview of the initial MAEO proposal, and the process so far. The Board discussed the proposal.

Mr. Woodcock made a motion approving sending a letter of support for the salary proposal to the County Executive. Mr. Jeffers seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING:

The Board scheduled its next meeting for Wednesday, June 5, 2019, at 12:30 PM in Room 119 of the Frederick County Board of Elections Office, located at 340A Montevue Lane. An invitation to the Board meeting will be extended to the incoming members.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Jeffers made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Joyner seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 1:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Marc R. Welch
Election Administrative Assistant

Approved by:


Mary Lou Green, Board President


Date