

Worcester County Board of Elections
201 Belt Street, Suite C, Snow Hill MD 21863
VIA in Person and Google Meet
April 6, 2022

ATTENDEES: BOARD:

In person:

Ed Rodier, Jr., President – Republican Board President

Audrey Wahl – Republican Board Member

Via Google Meet:

Linda A. Moran – Secretary – Republican Secretary Board Member

Martina Barnes-Wharton – Democratic Board Member

STAFF:

Patricia Jackson – Election Director

Teresa Riggan – Deputy Director

ABSENT:

Kay Ann Hickman – Vice President – Democratic Board Member

Lindsey West – Attorney for Worcester County Board of Elections

GUESTS:

Anissa Lopez, WMDT News Reporter

Dennis Evans, Grant Helvey, Sr., Vince Gisriel; Concerned Citizens of Worcester County

Meeting called to order at 10:09 am by President Rodier.

Minutes from October 6, 2021, January 5, 2022, and March 18, 2022 were approved by Mrs. Wahl and 2nd by Ms. Barnes-Wharton. The Board unanimously approved.

Messrs. Evans, Helvey and Gisriel talked about discrepancies in the voter rolls and asked questions about inactive, deceased, moved and duplicate voters. They put some of these concerns in correspondence which is attached. Mr. Gisriel also produced a walking list with details beside each voters' name that had moved, was deceased or duplicated. Mrs. Jackson gave them the Voter Registration List Maintenance document that is posted on SBE

website. Mr. Evans said he attended a meeting with Robin Sachs and others known as the Concerned Citizens group in Maryland.

Messrs. Evans, Gisriel and Helvey were satisfied with the answers both Mrs. Riggins and Mrs. Jackson provided to them.

Budget report was approved by Mrs. Moran and 2nd by Mrs. Wahl. The Board unanimously approved.

Old Business:

Ballot Drop Boxes - Worcester County will have 3 ballot drop boxes for the 2022 elections: Pocomoke Community Center, wherever the early voting center is located (currently, we are unsure of early voting center location for Primary), and outside our office in Snow Hill.

Election Judge training classes have been scheduled and Mrs. Jackson will send dates to all Board Members and staff.

The State of MD is encouraging everyone to vote by mail and so far, we have received around 3,200 mail ballot applications.

Mrs. Riggins and Mrs. Jackson, along with Mr. Rodier, attended the Commissioners Meeting regarding the Election Office FY23 Budget submitted. The Commissioners had more questions about the Primary Election date change than they did the budget. Mrs. Jackson felt the meeting went well.

New Business:

A calendar of dates was distributed, including election judge training dates.

The Court of Appeals will hear the legislative redistricting case on Wednesday, April 13. Once a decision has been made, we can either update our records and proceed with July 19th Primary Election date or find out if the Court will delay the Primary Election date, which would give us more time to update our records to the correct legislative district.

Ms. Barnes-Wharton was named the President of the Board of Canvassers, with Mrs. Moran being named the Secretary of the Board of Canvassers. Susan Branietki, Clerk of the Circuit Court, will be at our office on Wednesday, July 6th, at 9:30 am to swear in all Board Members and staff as the Board of Canvassers.

Currently, our early voting is scheduled to be held at the Roland E Powell Convention Center. Summer traffic in Ocean City during July is terrible and the office has been trying to locate another site. Berlin Intermediate School has offered to let us use their facility for the Primary only. SBE prefers the early voting center being the same site for both Primary and General Elections; however, the office is also looking into other options for early voting. SBE Board

Meeting is scheduled for April 27th and paperwork is to be filed with SBE prior to this meeting for consideration and approval of a new early voting center.

In the event the early voting center remains in Ocean City for the Primary and General, the Board approved hotel room accommodations during early voting for the Director and Deputy Director since they have to be at the early voting site at 5:45 am and remain there until 9-10 pm each day of early voting.


In 2018 election cycle, there were 17 polling places and in 2019, our office consolidated Snow Hill Elementary and Snow Hill Middle. SB158 mandates the same number of polling places for 2022 as we had in 2018. Mrs. Jackson asked Nikki Charlson if we needed to unconsolidated this polling place and she recommended that we wait.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Wahl, seconded by Mrs. Barnes-Wharton; motion passed unanimously.

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be Wednesday, July 6, 2022, at 10 am, in person at the election office. Susan Braniecki, Clerk of the Circuit Court, will be at this meeting to swear in the Board Members and office staff as a Board of Canvassers at 9:30 am before meeting begins.

Respectfully submitted by: Patricia Jackson, Election Director

And approved by



Edward Rodier, President