

Worcester County Board of Elections
201 Belt Street, Suite C, Snow Hill MD 21863

Via Conference Call
May 6, 2020

Attendees: **BOARD:**

Ed Rodier, Jr., President – Republican Board President Board Member
Kay Ann Hickman – Vice President – Democratic Board VP Board Member
Linda A. Moran – Secretary – Republican Secretary Board Member
Audrey Wahl – Republican Board Member
Martina Barnes-Wharton – Democratic Board Member

STAFF:

Patricia Jackson – Election Director
Teresa Riggan – Deputy Director
Lindsey West – Attorney for Worcester County Board of Elections

Guest: Mary Burgess, Chair – Worcester County Republican Central Committee
Loretta Spinuzza – Worcester County Republican Central Committee

Welcome Guest and Board:

Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm and Quorum Determined: A quorum was declared present, President Rodier called the meeting to order. Mr. Rodier welcomed Guests: Ms. Burgess and Mrs. Spinuzza.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Ms. Hickman and seconded by Ms. Moran to approve minutes of April 7, 2020.

Correspondence:

No Correspondence

No expenditures

Reports:

Budget was sent prior to meeting and reviewed by Board. Ms. Moran made a motion to approve budget and Ms. Hickman seconded the motion.

Old Business – Motion was made by Ms. Hickman to approve using Berlin Intermediate School as the one Vote Center for June 2, and to approve the location of the ballot drop off box to be in direct view of security camera; seconded by Ms. Barnes-Wharton. The ballot drop off box will have camera security 24/7. The ballot drop off box will be available from 7 am May 21st until 8 pm June 2nd, continuously.

Ms. Hickman recommended plenty of signs be posted at the school marking the correct entrance voters should use.

New Business:

Ms. Jackson and Ms. Riggin updated the Board on the meeting with Vice Principal at the Berlin Immediate School. Discussing the layout in the cafeteria and how the floors will be marked to separate voters by 6ft. and the Judges will have shields in front of them to protect them. There are 3 Chief Judges that accepted to work on June 2nd 2020. 10 voters at a time can be in the room and the equipment will be cleaned between each voter. After Election Day, Royal Plus will go in and clean the Cafeteria. That was acceptable to the VP.

We discussed the drop box and that they can hold up to 10,000 ballots (per Guy Mickley, Howard County Election Director, and times for pick up.

The campaigners can still be at the school on June 2nd and will need to be 100 feet away from the polling place entrance and ballot drop off box.

There was a motion made by Ms. Hickman to raise the pay for the Judges working Election Day June 2nd by \$100 a day, making the pay for regular Judges \$265 for the day and pay for Chief Judges \$375 for the day. Motion was seconded by Ms. Moran. This extra pay is for the June 2 Primary Election Day only.

Canvass is tentatively scheduled to run from May 21st to June 12th, 9 am to 4 pm, depending on whether enough ballots are received to meet the minimum 500 ballots per scanner used. This decision will be made the day before each canvass.

Board of Canvass Elections:

Mr. Rodier was nominated by Ms. Moran as the Board of Canvass Chairman and Ms. Barnes-Wharton was nominated as Board of Canvass Secretary by Ms. Hickman. We will anticipate setting up video calls during canvass on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 3:00 pm, however, this is subject to change pending SBE procedures.

While the canvass will be closed to the public, it will be broadcast as a live stream. The cost of obtaining the cameras and electronic equipment is to be paid for by a Grant the State Board of

Elections has received. The State Board of Elections has set up the live stream and equipment from townhalllive.com which is what they use for their live streaming of Board Meetings.

Ms. Jackson said there are still a lot of questions and how-to's being discussed and she is waiting for State Board of Elections procedures and guidance before determining the answers.

Ms. Jackson explained the reason why Board Members are to observe canvass via live stream and not attend canvass in person is for their protection against COVID19. Mr. Rodier authorized Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Riggins to perform the voting supplies certification for the vote center.

Ms. West announced that her stand-by attorney will be Ryan West and he will be available in the event she should become ill or otherwise unable to attend canvass.

Much discussion about the ballots that have been mailed and received in some counties but others have not yet received them.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned by Mr. Rodier at 1:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Linda A. Moran, Secretary

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President Edward Rodier, Jr

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Worcester County Board of Elections
201 Belt Street, Suite C, Snow Hill MD 21863

Via Conference Call

July 1, 2020

Attendees: **BOARD:**

Ed Rodier, Jr., President – Republican Board President Board Member
Kay Ann Hickman – Vice President – Democratic Board VP Board Member
Linda A. Moran – Secretary – Republican Secretary Board Member
Audrey Wahl – Republican Board Member
Martina Barnes-Wharton – Democratic Board Member

STAFF:

Patricia Jackson – Election Director
Teresa Riggan – Deputy Director
Lindsey West – Attorney for Worcester County Board of Elections

Guest: Mary Burgess, Chair – Worcester County Republican Central Committee
Loretta Spinuzza – Worcester County Republican Central Committee

Welcome Guest and Board:

Meeting called to order at 10:00 am and Quorum Determined: A quorum was declared present, President Rodier called the meeting to order. Mr. Rodier welcomed Guest; Ms. Burgess and Mrs. Spinuzza.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion was made by Mr. Rodier and seconded by Ms. Wharton to approve minutes of May 6, 2020.

Correspondence:

Letters were discussed from Delegates and Senators as to how to handle the upcoming primary election and what is the right way to do it. Discussion by all Board members.

In January 2020, the Delegates and Senators passed into law that postage would be paid on all by business reply permit for all of the County and State elections.

It was discussed that we need to educate the voter on how to vote the right way.

It was discussed that we need to have local voter outreach events as to "What to expect".

Motion made by Mr. Rodier for Worcester County Board of Elections Board Members to sign and send a letter to the State Board of Elections regarding the smaller, rural counties and how we felt we were not equally represented as far as voter outreach and education and request that the counties be allowed to locally promote the General Election method such as sending voters postcards with information about the election and the method used. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Hickman and passed unanimously.

Reports:

Ms. Hickman made a motion and it was approved by Ms. Wahl to accept the budget report.

Old Business – The primary election went well except for one voter that refused to wear a mask, but eventually he decided to wear one to vote instead of inconveniencing the Judges and voters.

Discussion about the drop boxes and that we had too many to check two times or three times a day and a lot of days there was none or just a few ballots.

New Business:

The staff will continue teleworking until Sept. The Budget was cut by \$2800, but Ms. Jackson said we are okay.

Ms. West needs to determine who is going to handle the insurance on the Lease for the offices.

MAEO Survey results are not in yet.

Motion to adjoin by MS Hickman and seconded by Ms. Wharton.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned by Mr. Rodier.

Respectfully submitted

Linda A. Moran, Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward Rodier, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

President Edward Rodier, Jr.

Worcester County Board of Elections

201 Belt Street, Suite C, Snow Hill MD 21863

Emergency Board Meeting, Via Conference Call

July 9, 2020, 2 pm

Attendees: **BOARD:**

Ed Rodier, Jr., President – Republican Board President Board Member

Kay Ann Hickman – Vice President – Democratic Board VP Board Member

Linda A. Moran – Secretary – Republican Secretary Board Member

Audrey Wahl – Republican Board Member

STAFF:

Patricia Jackson – Election Director

Teresa Riggan – Deputy Director

Absent: Martina Barnes-Wharton – Democratic Board Member

Lindsey West – Attorney for Worcester County Board of Elections

Guest: Mary Burgess, Chair – Worcester County Republican Central Committee

Welcome Guest and Board:

Meeting called to order at 2:00 pm and Quorum Determined: A quorum was declared present, President Rodier called the meeting to order. Mr. Rodier welcomed Guest: Ms. Burgess.

Correspondence:

Letter from Governor Hogan to Michael R. Cogan, Chairman of State Board of Elections.

New Business:

The purpose of this emergency meeting is for Ms. Jackson to discuss concerns regarding Governor Hogan's chosen method of Presidential General Election as outlined in above mentioned letter.

Ms. Jackson stated she is stunned by the Governor's decision; however, his decision has been made and we must follow his orders.

She held a staff meeting at 9 am today and a synopsis of the meeting is as follows:

A. Karen Timmons has been directed to call each Judge by July 23rd to confirm they will be able to work and to report back to Patti the number of confirmed judges and number of judges that will not work so she can report this to MAEO/SBE. She was also directed to pack election supply bags now while she has available time before the election rush.

B. Karen Timmons was also asked to contact Matt O. (Landlord) regarding using the front room for October and November for training, canvassing, etc.

C. Terron Pinder has been directed to call each polling place by July 23rd and confirm availability for November 3rd election. He will report findings to Patti so she can report this to MAEO/SBE.

D. Terron also expressed need for additional EFS workers both for early voting and election day (especially if SBE determines staff cannot be present during early voting and election day, as was decided for the Primary). He also expressed additional days for training for EFS, judges, and time and materials needed to prepare plexiglass shields for polls. Ms. Jackson asked him to put his concerns in an email and send to her as far as what supplies will be needed to be ordered so she could order the items before they are scarce due to the nationwide election and other states possibly needing same supplies.

Ms. Jackson has also sent an order to SBE for PPE to include masks, gloves, disinfecting wipes, plexiglass shields, face shields, hand sanitizer, etc.

SBE held Director's call in meeting today at 10:30 am and discussed Governor's letter. Teresa Riggan asked SBE if they would be able to hire additional workers at SBE to process absentee ballot applications for the LBEs so the LBEs could concentrate on the election more fully and not have to worry about purchasing additional equipment (laptops, MDVOTERS tokens, etc.), training and a place to put the temporary workers. Ms. Jackson asked David Garreis, MAEO President, for his support on this idea to push SBE to process the applications. He is going to send a survey to LBEs for their opinion before deciding to support or reject this idea.

Ms. Jackson expressed concern over Gull Creek Senior Living Community being used for early voting. It is not open to the public at this time and may not be open to the public in November. She would like to locate another early voting site, and stated Mr. Rodier has been in contact with the Berlin Fire Department regarding the old library building and Mr. Robinson for the Berlin Lions Club. Mrs. Hickman stated both of these buildings are very small inside. Mrs. Hickman made a motion to contact the Roland E. Powell Convention Center to see if a room is available for early voting, seconded by Mrs. Wahl; motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Jackson will contact the Convention Center but will also look for a centrally located site for early voting, as she feels the voters in the southern end of the County will not want to drive to Ocean City for early voting. Mr. Rodier stated that voters will have the option of voting via absentee ballot or in person at a polling place closer to their home.

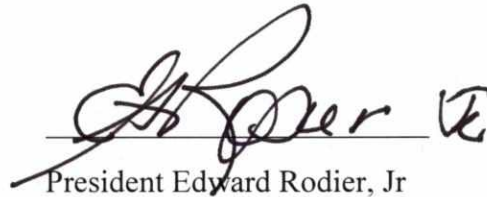
Mrs. Hickman asked about the ballot drop boxes and Mrs. Jackson said the office has two and does not have plans to order more until SBE mandates it. Mrs. Hickman felt each polling place should have a ballot drop off box so in the event there is a line, the voter can place their ballot into the box. This would only work if the voter brings their absentee ballot with them to the polling place (most do not).

Mrs. Jackson will keep the Board up to date with any additional information provided by MAEO or SBE.

There being no other business, Mrs. Hickman moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Mrs. Wahl; motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Rodier at 2:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Patricia Jackson, Election Director

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "E. Rodier Jr.", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and a stylized "R".

President Edward Rodier, Jr

Dr. J. M. W. Brown