

Worcester County Board of Elections  
201 Belt Street, Suite C, Snow Hill MD 21863  
Wednesday, June 7, 2023, 10 AM

***Attendees:***     **BOARD:**

Ed Rodier, Jr., Republican Board Member  
Martina Barnes-Wharton, Democratic Board Member  
Terry Smith, Democratic Board Member  
Thomas Butler, Democratic Board Member  
Jeff McMahon, Republican Board Member

**STAFF:**

Patricia Jackson, Election Director  
Teresa Riffin, Deputy Director

**ABSENT**

**GUESTS:**

Patricia Barbely  
Dennis Evans  
Penny Evans  
R. Grant Helvey, Sr.  
Bonita Gisriel  
Vince Gisriel  
Eleanore Diegelmann  
Susan H. Ostrowski, Republican Central Committee  
Larry Anderson

**Meeting called to order and Quorum Determined** - A quorum was declared present, Mr. Rodier called the meeting to order at 10 am. Mr. Rodier welcomed all guests.

**Organization of Board Members** – Ms. Smith nominated Ms. Barnes-Wharton to be Board President, seconded by Mr. Butler. There no other nominations made. Board voted unanimously to elect Ms. Barnes-Wharton the Board President.

Ms. Barnes-Wharton nominated Mr. Rodier to be Board Vice-President, seconded by Mr. McMahon. There were no other nominations made. Board voted unanimously to elect Mr. Rodier the Board Vice-President.

Mr. Rodier nominated Ms. Smith to be the Board Secretary, seconded by Mr. Butler. There were no other nominations made. Board voted unanimously to elect Ms. Smith the Board Secretary.

**Approval of Minutes** - Vice President Rodier offered a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of April 5, 2023, Mr. McMahon seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

**Correspondence**

There was no correspondence received to be reviewed by the Board.

**Year-to-Date Budget Report** - as of 5/1/23 is at 75%; President Barnes-Wharton moved to accept the report and Vice-President Rodier seconded, with unanimous acceptance.

**OLD BUSINESS**

The Board briefly discussed the MAEO Conference held May 14-19 at Fontainebleau Resort in Ocean City.

The FY24 budget had to be revised to include the Governor's longevity bonus for employees that have been working for the State since 2018, along with the legislative change to the Election Judge pay (\$250 for the day with \$100 bonus for all returning Judges for all days worked during an election cycle). The increases totaled approximately \$74,500.

Mrs. Jackson reminded the newly appointed Board Members that they will need to file an Ethics Disclosure with the State and will email them the link to do so.

Mrs. Jackson also alerted the Board Members to the new Primary dates and distributed bookmarks showing the new dates for early voting and Primary Election Day.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Jackson notified the newly appointed Board Members that they will need to appear at the County HR Department to complete paperwork and setup a date for employee orientation. Both Mr. McMahon and Mr. Butler plan to go to the HR Department immediately after the Board Meeting.

All Board Members completed the Rules of Security Behavior for their new term.

Mrs. Jackson distributed an updated list of Board Members and office staff contact information, along with 2023 Board Meeting dates.

The Board discussed the new By-Laws and President Barnes-Wharton made a motion to accept, with Vice-President Rodier seconding the motion, with unanimous acceptance. All Board Members signed the By-Laws and Mrs. Jackson will forward a copy of these to the State Board of Elections.

Mrs. Jackson will email the Board Members the link for the Open Meeting Acts training as all Board Members want to take this training.

Mr. Gisriel addressed the Board talking about mail in voting, removing early voting and other issues.

Ms. Diegelmann and Mr. Helvey supported Mr. Gisriel's comments.

Mr. Evans discussed the problems with paper ballots and the voting units reading the ballots as well as supporting voter photo ID.

Mrs. Riggan advised the speakers to request a meeting with the State Board of Elections as these issues cannot be resolved at the local election office.

**Scheduling of the Next Meeting** – The next meeting of the Worcester County Board of Elections will be held on Wednesday, October 4 at 10:00 am at the 201 Belt Street office.

**Adjournment** – Mr. Butler made a motion to adjourn at 10:47 am, which was seconded by Vice-President Rodier.

**Respectfully submitted,**

*Patricia Jackson, Election Director*



Martina Barnes-Wharton, President  
Worcester County Board of Elections

