

Minutes

Talbot County Board of Elections
Conference Room 1
Easton, MD 21601
January 15, 2025

Present:

Board

Susan MacKinnon	(D)
Barbara H. Perry	(D)
Gugy Irving III	(R)
Denise Lovelady	(R) (in attendance through a virtual link)

Staff

Tammy Stafford, Talbot County Election Director
Donna Hacker, Election Program Manager II

Board Attorney

Lyndsey Ryan

Public Attending

Members of the public were in attendance

The monthly meeting of the Talbot County Board of Elections was held January 15, 2025, in the Conference Room indicated above. Ms. MacKinnon called the meeting to order at 9:53 a.m. and noted a quorum was present. Delay was due to a conflict with scheduling the conference room. She welcomed guests and reminded all of Public Comment protocols.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. MacKinnon asked if the Board had any corrections or additions to the minutes. There were none. Mr. Irving moved to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Changes to Agenda

Ms. MacKinnon asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There were none.

Approval of the Agenda

Ms. MacKinnon asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Perry moved to accept the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Ms. Wilcoxon requested that public comments be moved to the end of the meeting. She asked where to find what the final count on parity of election judges was for the November election.

Mr. Bernard asked about the flags and plaque not yet being displayed in the meeting room. He also commented that he likes how the County Council does live streaming of their meetings.

Ms. MacKinnon indicated that we will be discussing live streaming and there will be changes. Still working on flag poles. Also advised that the Board had previously voted to keep Public Comments

where they are on the Agenda. Ms. MacKinnon welcomed Ms. Lovelady to the meeting via the online meeting link.

Election Director's Report

Ms. Stafford provided the Board with a written Director's Report on activities since the last Board meeting. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. Ms. Stafford provided updated information as follows: Ms. Stafford attended the first meeting of the Legislative Committee of MAEO. The Manual audit of a percentage of the ballots cast during the November election is tentatively scheduled for 10 a.m. on February 4, 2025.

Board Attorney's Report

Ms. Ryan had nothing to report. Ms. Ryan asked if the Board wanted her to track and report on legislative bills of interest. The Board said yes. Ms. Stafford indicated that her office is actively tracking 34 bills that have been cross filed with curbside voting again being brought up along with warehouse requirements for boards of election.

Old Business

- A. Facility for Election Office** - Looking at upgrades to current space as well as to continue talks with the county.
- B. FY2026 Budget** – In order to finalize, Ms. Stafford is waiting on input from the state on salaries.

New Business

- A. Board Work Session** – Mr. Irving asked how long these sessions might be and Ms. MacKinnon said we might need 1 to 2 session of about 1 hour each to discuss meeting format, to include streaming. Ms. Stafford suggested to review Open Meetings Act, COMAR and Election Laws. These meetings will be open to the public. Ms. McKinnon will send out an email with three possible dates for Board members to agree on a meeting date.

Disclosures – There were none.

Confirmation of next meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Elections will be on Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. Ms. Perry moved to cancel the February 19, 2025 meeting. Mr. Irving seconded the motion. Discussion about if our meetings will now be every other month until 2026 with the consensus being that we can decide that at the March meeting. The by-laws would not need to be changed. The motion then passed.

Meeting of Canvass Board – Ms. Perry moved that the Board go into a meeting of the Canvass Board at 10:33 a.m. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The minutes of the December 18, 2024 Canvass Board were approved. At 10:35 a.m. Mr. Irving moved to adjourn the Canvass Board and return to the Board of Elections meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Closed Session – At 10:36 a.m. Mr. Irving moved that the board go into closed session to discuss a personnel matter. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously. In order to attend the closed session, Ms. Lovelady discontinued participation via virtual link and called into Ms. MacKinnon's phone and was put on speaker. At 10:47 a.m. Ms. Perry moved to end the closed session. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

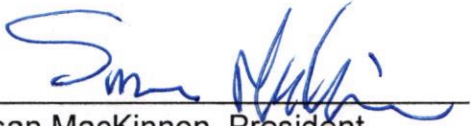
At 10:47 a.m. the board resumed the open session and reported that a personnel matter was discussed in closed session.

Adjournment

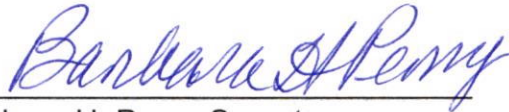
Mr. Irving moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Attested,

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Susan MacKinnon", written over a horizontal line.

Susan MacKinnon, President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Barbara H. Perry", written over a horizontal line.

Barbara H. Perry, Secretary

TALBOT COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
ELECTION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

January 15, 2025

Notice and Distribution of Materials

Meeting materials were prepared and mailed to Board Members, January 8, 2025.

The Agenda for the January meeting was posted on the Board of Elections web page the entrance to the office, and entrances of the building at 215 Bay Street 4, January 8, 2025.

Personnel:

Nothing to report at this time.

Meetings Attended:

Nothing to report at this time.

Correspondence:

Nothing to report at this time.

Voter Registration Activities:

Monthly Statistical Report- The Report was distributed to board members in the monthly packet. As of January 8, 2025, there were 29, 101 active registered voters in Talbot County.

Voting System Activities:

Post-election maintenance on the voting equipment is underway.

Candidate Filing:

The 2026 Election Calendar has not been released yet. However, candidate filing will begin in Mid-February.

Precinct and Polling Issues:

Payment for election judges and polling places were processed and sent out by County Finance.

Budget:

A report documenting Board of Elections Expenditures for FY 2025 was included in your board packet.

Other projects:

We are preparing for the Manual Audit.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

State Board of Elections Meeting, Thursday, January 23, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

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