

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 20, 2021

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Virtual Board meeting via ZOOM

APPROVED

In Attendance:

Board Members:

Nahid Khozeimeh, President (in person)

Diane Nash Dillon, Vice President

David A. Naimon, Secretary

Alexander Vincent

Elisse Barnes

Alan Banov

Board Attorney:

Kevin Karpinski (in person)

Staff:

Margaret Jurgensen, Director

Alysoun McLaughlin, Deputy Director

Kera Bumbray, Management and Budget Specialist (virtual)

Boris Brajkovic, Voter Service Manager

Lisa Merino, Administrative Specialist

Janet Ross, Information Technology Manager

Christine Rzeszut, Operations Manager

Audio/video of the meeting may be found on YouTube at the link below:

<https://youtu.be/X4JXarr00k>

Convene Board Meeting [:18]

Mrs. Khozeimeh called the meeting to order.

Board President's Remarks [:18]

Mrs. Khozeimeh thanked all those who attended the public hearing on September 18, 2021.

Additions and Changes to the Agenda [:38]

Mrs. Khozeimeh noted that the early voting item will be moved up to after public comment.

Public Comments [:54]

Natali Fani-Gonzalez, running for County Council District 4, spoke in support of an early voting site in the Aspen Hill and White Oak area.

Perry Paylor, candidate for Montgomery County State's Attorney, spoke in support of the White Oak Recreation Center to be used as an Early Voting center.

through the procurement process and is at the “last best offer” stage. The Board of Public Works (BPW) addressed the topic of cost sharing for the pollbooks and printers. David Brinkley, Secretary of Budget and Management, stated to the BPW that the cost of pollbooks and printers would be shared equally between the State and local governments. Ms. Jurgensen thanked all those who were part of the effort to obtain the costs split, especially Ms. McLaughlin. The County Board has ordered 1,315 printers; we already had 85 which are compatible with the pollbooks we already have.

Ms. Jurgensen added that the State Board of Elections advised local board that facilities with drop boxes must have 24/7 camera surveillance. A list of locations used in the 2020 Presidential election was provided to the Board. The staff is continuing to find out from the SBE how to acquire more SBE dropboxes, but no further information on that subject is available at this time.

Ms. Jurgensen noted that the County Executive and the County Council sent a letter supporting funding a 14th early voting site in Montgomery County. Mr. Naimon noted that a letter from the County Executive and the County Council may not be sufficient to have a 14th site funded. Ms. Jurgensen agreed and added that further information will be discussed under the budget item.

Mrs. Khozeimeh called on Senator Cheryl Kagan. Senator Kagan spoke on the legislation on cost sharing and the initiative to pursue and secure cost sharing in the future. She noted, among other things, that the 50/50 split between the State and local jurisdictions on elections equipment is just a temporary understanding and that she will continue to seek a statutory codification of that arrangement.

Budget [31:26]

Ms. Jurgensen reported that the Board of Elections has been assigned a new Office & Management budget analyst, Shantee Jackson, and with a new staff person for the County Council, Carlos Camacho.

Ms. Bumbray reviewed the closing of the FY 21 budget, noting a \$1 million deficit even after receipt of some \$800,000 in grant funds and \$1,100,000 in FEMA funds. The majority of the deficit is due to the State Board of Elections' invoicing. Ms. Jurgensen thanked Ms. Bumbray for all her efforts now and during the COVID-19 Pandemic in securing a grant to defer costs for PPE, overtime, and operations. Mr. Banov noted that the SBE not only sends us invoices, but also threatens to charge us interest and take us to “collections” if we do not pay the invoices fast enough (net 30 days).

Ms. Bumbray reviewed the FY 22 budget and noted that BOE has spent about \$400,000 to date.

Supplemental [42:11]

Ms. Jurgensen noted that staff met with the Budget Subcommittee to discuss the anticipated costs to comply with the many new legislative mandates passed in the session. The spreadsheet approved by the budget subcommittee was distributed to the Board in advance, noting a supplemental request for \$5,558,827. Ms. Jurgensen reviewed the process to submit the supplemental and added that it will go for approval to the County Council's Government Operations Committee on October 7, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. Ms. Bumbray reviewed the supplemental with the Board. The full supplemental budget to be submitted can be found

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New Business [1:26:28]

Mr. Naimon thanked the recently departed Board members, James Shalleck and Jacqueline Phillips, for their services.

Mr. Vincent noted that Mr. Shalleck and Ms. Phillips will be missed, and Ms. Dillon and Mr. Banov echoed Mr. Naimon's comments.

Approval of Minutes [1:34:03]

Mr. Vincent moved to approve the July 19, 2021 minutes as edited by Mr. Banov. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dillon and passed unanimously.

Mr. Vincent moved to approve the August 5, 2021 emergency meeting minutes as edited by Mr. Banov. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dillon and passed unanimously.

Future Meetings [1:36:40]

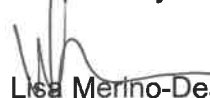
All Board meeting will be held on the 3rd Monday of each month, unless otherwise noted.

The next Board meetings will be held October 18 and November 15, 2021, via Zoom.

Adjournment [1:39:05]

With nothing further to discuss, Mr. Dillon moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:10pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vincent and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa Merino-Dean
Administrative Specialist II

APPROVED BY THE BOARD:



Nahid Khozeimeh
Board President