

MINUTES
KENT COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
135 Dixon Drive, Chestertown MD 21620
September 5th, 2024

Present:

Lisa Thompson, President
Scott Lockerman, Vice President
Paul Showalter, Secretary
Mary Walker, Member
Barbara Reed, Member

Staff: Cheemoandia Blake, Election Director

i. Call Meeting to Order

Lisa Thompson called the meeting to order at 8:40 am and declared a quorum was present.

ii. Welcome Guest(s)

Dawn Jacobs
Dawn Wright – Election Judge
Gearld Dockstader -Election Judge
Thomas McGinnis – Election Judge

III. Report Board Absences

N/A

IV. Approval of Minutes

Lisa Thompson made a motion to approve the minutes from August 1st, 2024. Paul Showalter seconded the motion; the motion passes unanimously.

V. Directors Report/Attorneys Report

VI. Documents

- a. Board Minutes – August 1, 2024.
- b. Ballot Questions
- c. Voter Intimidation
- d. August Newsletter Updates & Events

- e. PDNI – Election Security Update
- f. Precinct Voter Count

VII. Old Business

- a. Temporary Staffing – Election Director advised the board that the temp agency is still recruiting for EFS, Greeters, L&A Techs. If they know if anyone that may be interested to please provide their contact information to be passed on to the temp agency. The county/support tech positions have been filled, the county tech will start September 9th, the support tech will start September 16, 2024.
- b. Pem – Post Election Maintenance have been completed on all equipment utilized during the primary election. All documents have been submitted to the Regional Manager. Completed 8/30/2024.
- c. Kent County Fair- the board agreed to setup a voter information table for 2 days of the fair. The board will be in attendance Friday and Saturday.
- d. Legacy Day – board agreed that we will participate in 2025.
- e. MAEO- one day event that will be held at Baltimore County Board of Elections. Lisa Thompson, Mary Walker, Paul Showalter, Barbara Reed and Cheemoandia Blake attended the meeting in person. Scott Lockerman attended the meeting via webinar.
- f. Chief Judge Lessons Learned – held at the election office.
- g. Election Judges – we have reached out to the Republican Central Committee for assistance in recruiting election judges. We currently have 53 Democrats, 34 Republicans and 9 Other parties assigned as of August. Election Director advised the board if they know of anyone interested in becoming an election judge, please contact Michelle Meekins ext. 201.
- h. Election Judge Training – is being held at the election office on the following dates: Sept 10th – 12th, 17th – 19th and Sept 25th.
- i. Voter Participation Center – Nonpartisan group sending out voter registration applications.

VIII. New Business

- a. Ballot Approved/ Ordered – ballots approved, and orders sent to SBE.
- b. Jazz Festival – agreed to not have a voter information table.
- c. Board Members Duties/Reimbursement – a hard copy was provided to the board and a short discussion was held as to what the board duties consisted of.
- d. Election Judges – 71 Democrats, 44 Republicans, 11 Other parties as of September.
- e. Worton Elementary School –
 - Additional space at Talbot Blvd.
 - 2 additional employees
 - CT/ST during election year
- f. Trainers – Cindy Davis and Rhonda Greene.

- g. Ballot Drop Box - are located at the same locations, Kent County Public Library, Galena Fire Department and Rock Hall Fire Department. Atlantic Security has installed cameras and monitors at each location.
- h. CTCL Grant – Election Director, Cheemoandia Blake has applied for a grant from the Center for Tech and Civic Life. This is a nonprofit organization. The grant will be used for security related expenses that are not covered in the county budget.
- i. Gearld Dockstader – stated that he was told by the public that Election Director, Cheemoandia Blake was hard to get in contact with. Election Director assured Mr. Dockstader that this was the first she had heard of this. She also assured Mr. Dockstader that she can be reached by calling the office main number, via email or via business cellphone. Election Director, Cheemoandia Blake also stated that her contact information is in the election judge manual, Chief Judge Binder and on the BMD instruction which is posted on the BMD on during all 8 days of EV and Election Day.
- j. Brief discussion – regarding Barbara Reed contacting/communicating with election judges at Kent County Public Library after the primary election regarding complaints. Paul Showalter stated that the board member should be listeners not talkers, any complaints should be directed to the Election Director and handled professionally. Dawn Wright stated that the board members should communicate with one another and be able to trust one another. Board members should not be going to other counties bashing the election office and other board members. Dawn Wright also stated she has never seen such confusion within a board in all the years she has been involved with the election process. Thomas McGinnis stated that if it wasn't for Barbara Reed we would have lost election judges at the KCPL polling location.

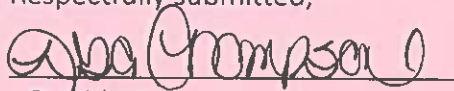
IX. Closed Session:

No closed session.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, Paul Showalter made a motion at 9:45 am. to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lisa Thompson. Motion passed by all. The next meeting is scheduled for October 3rd, 2024, at 8:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,



President



Secretary