



Cecil County Board of Elections
February 19, 2025
MINUTES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE MEETING

Public notice of the Board meeting was provided by displaying the meeting information and agenda on the bulletin board in the lobby of the Cecil County Administration Building, and by posting on the Election agency website and Election agency social media platforms. A copy of the agenda was made available.

MINUTES of the Cecil County Board of Elections meeting held on the February 19, 2025 in the Northeast Room on the 1st Floor of the Cecil County Administration Building located at 200 Chesapeake Boulevard in Elkton, Maryland. Public viewing of this meeting was available in person. Board member attendance was in person, as noted below.

ATTENDEE

Jennifer Graham
Stephen Stiles
Krista Moretz
Bradley Moore
Holcombe Grier
Gary Holmes
Karen Benecewicz
Sheri Woodruff
Mary Nelson
Teresa DiFabbio
Sean Brimm

President
Vice President
Secretary
Board Counsel
Board Member
Director
Deputy Director
Election Supervisor
Public
Public
Public

+ EUNICE ✓ JLG 2/18/25 (KLN) 3/19/2025

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order by President, Jennifer Graham at 3:04 pm. Quorum was established with all five (5) Board Members present.

AGENDA

No additions to the agenda.

MOTION: Holcombe Grier, member Cecil County Board of Elections motioned to approve agenda for the February 19, 2025 Board Meeting.

SECOND: Stephen Stiles, Vice President Cecil County Board of Elections

ACTION: Minutes approved unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Jennifer Graham started by welcoming everyone to her first meeting of the new year. Jennifer stated that she is grateful for a new administration and looks forward to working with them. The staff should continue to comply with whatever comes down from the new administration and continue to answer questions from the community and public as well. Jennifer remarked that she is sure the staff will do remarkable work.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the January 15, 2025, Board meeting were provided to the Board with a copy in each of their folders.

MOTION: Board Vice President, Stephen Stiles motioned to approve Minutes for January 15, 2025.
SECOND: Holcombe Grier, Member Cecil County Board of Elections
ACTION: Minutes approved unanimously.

DIRECTOR' S REPORT

(Everyone present received a copy in their folder.) Gary Holmes, Director covered how the staff continues to process and proof the daily work of updating and registering voters, cancelled, moved and deceased voters. We also completed the Critical Oversight report of Allegheny Co. as assigned by SBE.

Covering the topic of warehouse and IT, Gary mentioned that the new warehouse regulations (enclosed in folder) had gone up for public comment and are now awaiting final approval. In addition, the PEM (post-election maintenance) of the equipment is ongoing, the poll book portion was complete, and they have moved on to the BMD and DS200s. In addition, the yearly Inventory Audit is taking place. Lastly, Jasmine and Ashira attended a ETC (Election Technical Committee of MAEO) in Anne Arundel where they warehouse regulation and the RFP for 2028 was discussed.

Gary stated that the staff is holding weekly meetings on Wednesdays. Several of the staff are taking part in various MAEO committees and have been attending those meetings in addition to all the lessons learned meeting held by SBE. The committees the staff are involved in include: Voter Registration, Election Judge, Outreach, and Conference Planning.

Karen, Sheri and Gary are also involved in various ways with the Legislative committee. Gary mention that HB 1280 would allow unaffiliated voters to change their party and vote the new party during early voting. (MAEO provided information only). SB 0313 repeals the current manual audit requirement and requires a Risk-Limiting Audit (RLA) instead. Also allows an automated software audit. Notably, the RLA must be completed before certification and cover at least one statewide and local contest. MAEO provided information only.

Gary visited the municipalities of North East and Charlestown to bring them their voter rosters. The visit to North East took place on the day of their election, and Charlestown chose not to hold their election due to the fact the races are all uncontested.

Gary listed the meetings he had attended since the last Board Meeting which included MAEO, Verkada Company (security and sign in system), State of the County sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and the Finance Department to discuss the 2026 budget.

Gary also provided a list of upcoming events: the directors meeting and SBE collaboration which will be held on February 20, 2025, a meeting with EMS (Emergency Services) on February 25 to discuss the \$3500 grant we received and how we may wish to allocate those funds. Lastly, Gary mentioned that he is awaiting final approval of the interview panel and questions, for the two contractual pins so we can begin interviewing our selected candidates.

Gary closed by stating that we completed our manual audit that morning and it was a success. We did have to do a double and triple check of ballots .

COUNSEL'S REPORT

Bradley Moore, Board Attorney, stated there was nothing to report at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

The minor damage to the drop box being hit by a Scholastic Book Fair truck was mentioned in regards to damages being repaired. Gary did not seem to think that the State would pursue

action against the truck. It was also mentioned that the drives for the storage of drop box footage might be something to consider for the grant funds.

Jennifer Graham took interest in Sheri's discussion of CISA and how we might include some security awareness in our election judge training and perhaps that is something the grant may also cover.

OFFICE REPORT

Regarding the 2026 budget, the county is looking to make cuts. They mentioned that in their view, we budgeted too much for travel and postage in 2025.

HB 945 was also discussed regarding possibly altering the date of the Gubernatorial Primary from the last Tuesday in June to the fourth Tuesday in June.

The county is looking into redoing their website and we will be able to give our site a fresher look and we would have more flexibility in the look of our page.

NEW BUSINESS

Any updates on the MAEO conference will be distributed as they become available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISCLOSURES

Holcombe Grier, Member Cecil County Board of Elections disclosed that he contributed to Act Blue.

Eunice Grant, Member Cecil County Board of Elections apologized for not attending the January meeting. She was in a working meeting and was not able to get to a phone to let anyone know.

Jennifer Graham, President, Cecil County Board of Elections gave a reminder announcement about the ethics statements that are due in April. All board members should have received emails.

QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mary Nelson asked what our thoughts were on HB 1280. Sheri Woodruff stated that there was the potential for an increase in Provisional ballots and errors. There is a reason for deadlines, particularly so the poll books can be updated timely before elections.

Board Folders:

- January 15, 2025 – Board Meeting Minutes for approval
- Director's Report
- February 19, 2025, Board Meeting Agenda
- Minutes from the Chief Judge meeting that took place January 15, 2025
- Copy of the Warehouse Regulations that were up for public comment.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The Board/ Board of Canvassers will convene at 3:00 PM on March 19, 2025 in the North East room in the Cecil County Administrative Bldg.

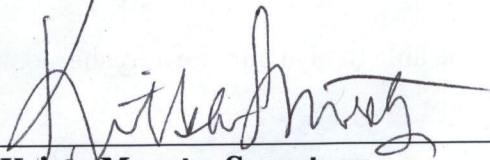
ADJOURNMENT

Eunice Grant, Member Cecil County Board of Elections motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Krista Moretz, Secretary Cecil County Board of Elections. The meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm for a closed session.

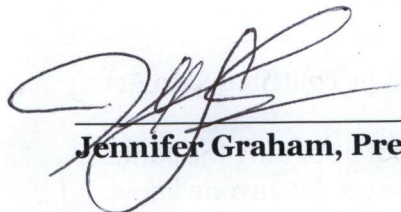
CLOSED MEETING

Our meeting entered closed session under the provisions of the General Provisions Article, subsection 3-305(b), specifically under provision (1) to discuss personnel.

Respectfully submitted,



Krista Moretz, Secretary



Jennifer Graham, President

Meetings, Trainings, and Important Dates:

- March 19, 2025 - Board Meeting
- March 20, 2025 - Directors meeting w SBE
- April 23, 2025 - Board Meeting
- May 4-9, 2025 - MAEO Conference Ocean City, MD
- May 21, 2025 - Board Meeting
- May 26, 2025 - Memorial Day Holiday
- June 18, 2025 - Board Meeting
- July 16, 2025 - Board Meeting
- August 20, 2025 - Board Meeting
- September 17, 2025 - Board Meeting
- October 15, 2025 - Board Meeting
- November 19, 2025 - Board Meeting
- December 17, 2025 - Board Meeting

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Ocean City

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3D WGA MTG (WAREHOUSE)
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