

APPROVED

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS' SPECIAL MEETING by
CONFERENCE CALL**

18753-210 North Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland

August 20, 2020

In Attendance Via Phone:

Board Members:

Nahid Khozeimeh, Acting President

James Shalleck

David A. Naimon, Secretary

Diane Nash Dillon

Elisse W. Barnes

Jacqueline L. Phillips

Alan Banov

Board Attorney Kevin Karpinski

Staff:

Margaret Jurgensen, Director

Alysoun McLaughlin, Deputy Director

Christine Rzeszut, Operations Manager

Audio of the meeting may be found on You Tube at the link below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MuejOssc_XA&feature=youtu.be

Convene the Board meeting and Declare a Quorum Present

In the absence of President James Shalleck, who was in a court proceeding, Board Vice President Nahid Khozeimeh called the Board meeting to order and declared a quorum present at 4:33 p.m.

Establish Vote Center at Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Montgomery County Conference Center, 5701 Marinelli Rd Rockville MD 20852 to serve as a Vote Center on November 3, 2020 from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm **[1:08]**

Ms Khozeimeh said that the first item on the agenda was to vote on the proposal described in the presentation and packet materials viewed by Board members to use the Marriott Hotel and County Conference Center as a Vote Center for the November 3, 2020 General Election.

11/10/2020

Mr. Naimon made a motion to approve the proposal as presented.

Mr. Naimon's motion was seconded by Ms. Dillon and unanimously approved.

Ms. Jurgensen added that there would be construction between Old Georgetown Road and Marinelli Road that is not expected to be completed before July 2021, but that as Mr. Naimon indicated, the work on the facility and access to parking should be sufficiently complete for election purposes before the election.

Ms. Jurgensen reported that the State Board of Elections had a deadline for receiving a spreadsheet of all proposed county vote centers by close of business next Tuesday, August 28th, the date of the State Board meeting and that the Montgomery County Board of Elections will have the proposed sites to that office on time.

Mr. Naimon asked whether the deadline for approval of location of ballot drop boxes was the same as that for vote centers. Ms. Jurgensen explained that the deadline at issue for today's emergency session is approval of the Marriott Conference Center location, but that since drop boxes will be at the vote centers in high schools and rec centers and all those boxes, provided at state expense, we have already met the county's limit on available large boxes, so any deadline was irrelevant.

Mr. Karpinski reminded the members that today's emergency meeting was for the purpose of approving the Conference Center vote center in time for the State Board meeting the following Tuesday. Asked for an opinion about whether this matter could be added to the agenda at this point, Mr. Karpinski said there was nothing to prevent consideration of the matter if the board and president agreed. Consensus was in favor of discussion.

Mr. Naimon moved that staff be instructed to provide drop boxes at three locations not already approved for the large boxes: in addition to the small drop box that will be installed at Leisure World, communities of Asbury, Friendship Heights, and Riderwood would all benefit from drop boxes for residents with mobility issues and (for Asbury and Riderwood) because their campuses have been mostly closed to outside visitors and travel. His motion was seconded by Ms. Phillips, who suggested a drop box at Asbury.

In discussing the motion, Ms. Phillips and other members said that they had heard from residents and staff at the three aforementioned communities, and that they would support that plan if it would be allowed by the State Board.

Ms. Jurgensen said that the State of Maryland has already maxed out on the ability of the manufacturer to produce any more drop boxes paid for by the State; that if the Board wanted to install drop boxes at the three additional locations mentioned above, staff would have to ask a different company to make three more of the smaller versions already scheduled for Leisure World and that the cost for the boxes - about \$2600 with shipping - would be the County's responsibility.

Mr. Naimon's motion was approved unanimously.

All eleven early voting centers will have drop boxes, and the BOE has been told by the State Board that it will get the full allotment of boxes already requested for voting on Election Day (November 3), - but that the additional allotment may not all arrive in time for Early Voting, which begins October 26.

Mr. Naimon asked that information be made available on the website, perhaps as a map, to tell people where the drop boxes will go. Ms. Jurgensen said that she hesitates to put up that information prior to the boxes actually being installed, so that people don't bring ballots to deposit in boxes that may not yet have arrived at the time early voting starts.

Mr. Naimon advocated that staff disseminate information about the planned eventual locations of drop boxes on the website and in publicity and expect voters to read the information that installation dates might vary.

Mr. Shalleck said that he believed any information about this must be very simply stated.

Approval of Minutes [22:01]

Mr. Naimon moved to approve the version of the minutes of the June 29 meeting that Mr. Banov submitted. Mr. Banov seconded the motion. Ms. Dillon said that there were significant differences in two versions (noted to look at page 4) and would not vote to approve the version most recently submitted because she thought they contained "political statements" in an addition related to submitting an absentee ballot and then voting in a vote center. Mr. Naimon responded that the purpose of the minutes was to report what was said at the meeting and that the revised minutes did so.

Mr. Naimon said that his motion remains to approve the amended version of the minutes most recently submitted by Mr. Banov because that version accurately stated what was said in the meeting.

Ms. Dillon moved to amend Mr. Naimon's motion to accept the second edition of the minutes, but to strike the edits on the second paragraph on page 4. The motion was seconded by Ms. Khozeimeh and passed by a vote of 3 to 2, with Mr. Shalleck, Ms. Khozeimeh, and Ms. Dillon in favor of Ms. Dillon's amendment, and Mr. Naimon and Dr. Barnes voting against the amendment.

The amended motion was passed unanimously.

Canvass Hazard Stipend [35:11]

Mr. Karpinski suggested postponing the issue of providing hazard pay for the canvass employees until another meeting because it needed additional information. He also pointed out that if the Board wished to discuss the matter in a public meeting, it would need to give the public 3 days' notice. Mr. Naimon asked if the Board should resolve the issue in executive session or a public meeting. Ms. Jurgensen said that there are several priorities staff must address and suggested the meeting take place on September 8th. Mr. Naimon objected to this date being two weeks away, and said it was too late if the Board is trying to incentivize volunteers to do this work and asked why it would be necessary to wait.

Ms. Jurgensen responded that it was not feasible to meet earlier because staff have a hard deadline to get digital ballots in 255 precinct versions in English and Spanish to be mailed to voters who have requested these visually scannable ballots; all must be proofed and approved and staff workload will be stretched by the highest priority of the ballots. The issue with regard to salary for canvass can be delayed until the optical ballots are completed as the State Board requires.

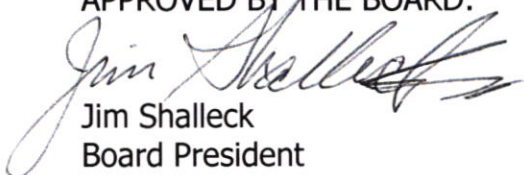
Mr. Shalleck said that the Board's bylaws say that the board members have no part in the day to day operations of the BOE office and he defers to Margaret as to when she will be ready to report to the Board.

Ms. Khozeimeh moved to hold an executive session meeting on September 8th at 2:30 pm to discuss increased pay for poll workers and canvass workers. The motion passed, with Mr. Shalleck, Ms. Khozeimeh, Ms. Dillon, and Dr. Barnes in favor; Mr. Naimon abstained from the vote.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded, and passed unanimously. **[41:54]**

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Merino
Administrative Specialist II

APPROVED BY THE BOARD:


Jim Shalleck
Board President