OFFICE OF GENERAL REGISTRAR
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
E. RANDALL WERTZ, GENERAL REGISTRAR

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TO: **F. Craig Meadows, County Administrator**

FROM: E. Randall Wertz, Director of Elections & General Registrar *ERWertz*

SUBJECT: **Reasons for Relocating Polling Place in E-2**

DATE: May 2, 2016

The Montgomery County Electoral Board and I have been deliberating whether to move the polling place from the Long-Shop McCoy Fire Department for some time. But the residents of the McCoy area have pleaded with us not to do so because of their desire to keep the facility at the center of all of the community's activities.

After requesting information from the GIS Department and much discussion, it was decided that we could not adequately conduct the 2016 Presidential Election at this site. The following reasons brought us to this conclusion:

- Long-Shop McCoy Fire Department has the smallest number of true parking spaces (14) available for voters. With an anticipated 75% turnout that would mean an average of 101 voters every hour for the thirteen hours the polls are open. With only 14 parking spaces available, the overflow would create a traffic problem along McCoy Road, which could create accidents and safety issues for voters and Party representatives. Plus, it could create problems for the Fire and Rescue Departments in responding and returning from calls.
- Long-Shop McCoy Fire Department has the third smallest floor space (864 sq. ft.) of our 24 precincts and the last redistricting doubled the number of voters here (1,744). The two smaller locations are: B-1 (North Fork Baptist Church) with 700 sq. ft. and only 387 voters; and C-3 (Hall's United Methodist Church) with 832 sq. ft. with only 844 voters.
- This turnout number per hour would also create lines and delays for voters. In past elections the Officers of Election have only utilized four (4) voting booths for voters to mark their ballots. In order to properly process our voters, according to the VA Tech study group, we need a minimum of nine (9) voting booths. There is not enough space in this room to accommodate this number of stations. In 2012 we utilized the WINvote machines and did not utilize the voting booths we use today. The optical scan voting machines require more space for voters and our officers of Election. Therefore in order to process our voters in a timely manner we must have a considerable amount of floor space available for these marking booths.
- There will also be two (2) referendums on the ballot in November and this will slow down the voters in the voting booths. History has proven that voters take their time in marking their ballots with referendums because they do not find out about them prior to entering the polling place and they read them very carefully before voting. This will slow down the voting process and create lines. As a result, voters will be unhappy and complain.

- Traffic Counts show that at the 2,300 cars per day come and go from the McCoy area each day. They travel either toward the Town of Blacksburg or toward the Arsenal. Toward the Arsenal along Prices Fork Road 6,600 cars per day come and go toward the Arsenal and 10,000 per day go toward the Town of Blacksburg. Meaning a very large group of residents would drive near the site chosen to replace the Fire Station (Price's Fork Elementary School).
- The data provided by the GIS Department shows there are similar numbers of voters within the Long-Shop McCoy area and in the other areas of E-2.
- The GID data also showed that if the polling place is changed to the Price's Fork Elementary School, the voters from the Long-Shop McCoy area would travel approximately the same amount of time the voters closer to Blacksburg do now.

It is the responsibility of the Electoral Board to ensure that we "provide adequate facilities at each polling place for the conduct of elections." (Section 24.2 – 310) Therefore, it is our position that the present polling location (Long-Shop McCoy Fire Department) does not meet these qualification for the upcoming Presidential Election and the polling place should be moved to the Price's Fork Elementary School.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ELECTORAL BOARD
Minutes
April 19, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 am. All Board members were present. Registrar E. Randall Wertz was in attendance. E-2 Precinct Chief Officer Belinda Pauley and Officer of Election Catherine Caldwell were also present.

Chairman Dowdy requested additional time to review the minutes of the March 16, 2016 meeting and asked to defer approval until the next meeting of the Electoral Board.

The site of the B-3 precinct polling place, Belmont Christian Church at 2149 Dominion Drive in Christiansburg, will be closed on May 1, 2016. The congregation has built a new church close by at 1500 Peppers Ferry Road. The Board visited the new facility and found that it will provide improved precinct space and parking. Secretary Williams entered a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman McKenzie, to move the B-3 polling place to the new church location. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

The Longshop-McCoy Fire Department, located at 5770 McCoy Road in Blacksburg, has become inadequate as a polling place for the E-2 precinct due to changes in voting technology and an increase in voter population. The Board has previously observed and evaluated the site. Ms. Pauley and Ms. Caldwell attended the meeting to discuss the relocation of the polling place to Prices Fork Elementary School at 4021 Prices Ford Road. It was noted that the school facility will provide increased floor space and parking. The school site also provides a similar balance in travel distance among voters assigned to this precinct. Secretary Williams offered a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman McKenzie, to move the E-2 polling place to Prices Fork Elementary School. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

The Board began its annual review of the Voting Systems Security Plan. Several administrative updates, such as precinct addresses and equipment nomenclature, are needed. Secretary Williams will update the document for approval by the Board.

Registrar Wertz reported that he had received two letters from the Disability Law Center of Virginia regarding the March 1, 2016 Dual Presidential Primary. The letters referenced two incidents in which disabled voters were not properly informed of the availability of ADA-compliant voting equipment. The Board discussed changes to Election Day procedures which will increase Officer of Election familiarity with the Unisyn OVI voting machine provided in each precinct for voters with disabilities.

Vice-Chairman McKenzie addressed the issue of student voter registration with regard to the November Presidential Election. Registrar Wertz noted that he will solicit the assistance of the Virginia Tech Student Government Association with student registration and in encouraging students to update their addresses.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Marshall D. Dowdy	Freddie A. McKenzie	Carroll D. Williams
Chairman	Vice-Chairman	Secretary

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ELECTORAL BOARD
Minutes
April 22, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am. All Board members were present. Registrar E. Randall Wertz was in attendance.

Vice-Chairman McKenzie moved that the minutes of the March 16, 2016 meeting be approved. Secretary Williams seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Vice-Chairman McKenzie moved that the minutes of the April 19, 2016 meeting be approved. Secretary Williams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Christiansburg Library, located at 125 Sheltman Street in Christiansburg, has become inadequate as a polling place for the D-5 precinct due to changes in voting technology and an increase in voter population. The Christiansburg Middle School, located at 1205 Buffalo Drive, was proposed as the new polling location. It was noted that the school facility will provide increased floor space and parking. Secretary Williams offered a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman McKenzie, to relocate the D-5 polling place to Christiansburg Middle School. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 am.

Marshall D. Dowdy	Freddie A. McKenzie	Carroll D. Williams
Chairman	Vice-Chairman	Secretary