Madison County Board of Elections

Meeting Minutes –Monthly Meeting

May 23, 2025

The Madison County Board of Elections held a regularly scheduled meeting on Friday, May 23, 2025, at Suite E, Room 16, 5707 US 25-70 Hwy, Marshall, 28753. In attendance: Jerry Wallin, Chair; Dyatt Smathers, Secretary; Brian Ball, Member; Ray Lewis, Member; Debbie Ponder, Member; Jacob Ray, Director; and one member of the public.

Call to Order:

- Chair Wallin called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Agenda:

- **Motion (DS, JW) to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

Minutes:

- **Motion (DS, BB) to approve April 16, 2025, meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

Members' Report:

- Secretary Smathers gave a positive report on his site visit with the director to the potential polling site, Reeves Home Place Farm, LLC, located at 193 Nealia Ln, Leicester, NC 28748. Secretary Smathers indicated the site is perfect for the precinct's polling place, is located within the Sandy Mush Precinct, and is offered with minimal paperwork and expectations. He further expressed his gratitude to Roscoe Reeves and the Reeves Family for making it available to the community.
- Chair Wallin initiated a discussion with the board about the upcoming board member appointments and when the new board will be sworn in.
- Secretary Smathers complimented the Director's budget presentation to the county commissions and commented that the travel line item has been eliminated for all departments across the county. Travel reimbursement invoices must now be sent directly to the county finance officer for processing and payment.

Director's Report:

- The Director reported that his budget presentation to the Madison County Board of Commissioners went well and is confident that the Board of Elections will be well-funded for the 2026 fiscal year.
- The Director presented April's expense report and explained that some of the line items are set by the county and that some of the line items have exceeded what is in the budget. The director will be submitting line-item transfer requests to correct overdrawn line items.
- Member Ball asked for clarification regarding the annual Printelect voting equipment maintenance visit.
- The Director reported the newly appointed Executive Director was introduced on May 15th. The first Meet and Greet will be Wednesday, May 21st.
- The Director commented regarding the current precinct judge selection and appointment process.

New Business

- The Director requested the board continue the Laurel Community Center lease agreement. **Motion (BB, DS) to continue the Laurel Community Center lease agreement. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**
- Discussion ensued regarding Reeves Home Place Farm, LLC's potential and suitability as the Sandy Mush Precinct polling place. **Motion (JW, DS) to establish Reeves Home Place Farm, LLC as the Sandy Mush Precinct polling site. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

Other Matters

- Secretary Smathers presented a copy of Senate Bill 382 as passed by the legislature and summarized the county board appointment and swearing in schedule accordingly. Discussion ensued regarding the date certain for the swearing in of county board members as per General Statute § 163-30. The Director will reach out to the state board for clarification and guidance prior to the June 18th board meeting.

Public Comment:

- Paula Dempsey thanked the Board for their service and giving the citizens confidence in the election process.
- Board members commented on the teamwork and cooperation that exists among the board members.

Adjournment:

- **Motion (DS, JW) to adjourn at 4:01 p.m. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

Announcement:

Next Scheduled Meeting: Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

Chair _____ Secretary _____