

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
REGULAR SESSION  
Board of Elections Conference Room  
Wednesday, August 10, 2016  
9:00 A.M.**

**MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Smathers called the meeting of the Madison County Board of Elections to order at 9:03 a.m. at the Board of Elections Conference Room. In attendance were 4 members of the public; Dyatt F. Smathers, Chair; Ray Lewis, Secretary; Jerry Wallin, Member; Wade Gahagan, Deputy Director; and Kathy Ray, Director.

AGENDA

**Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to set the agenda.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to approve the July 13, 2016 meeting minutes.**

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Smathers commented that it is a pleasure to serve with the other Board members and staff. He elaborated that this Board chooses to stay engaged and informed. He congratulated the Director on being appointed to the North Carolina Association of Directors of Elections (NCADE) State Level Executive Committee.

He informed the meeting attendees that the 2016 Edition of Election and Related Laws and Rules of North Carolina has been released. He further informed the attendees that G.S. 163-165(d) establishes the ordering of the candidates on the ballot for the upcoming General Election by political party of the governor and strict alphabetical order for partisan candidates.

He indicated that no complaints have been received regarding the change of the Board of Elections office hours.

He finalized his report by emphasizing the convenience of traveling to Concord rather than Raleigh for the August 2016 State Board of Elections Conference.

MEMBERS' REPORTS

Secretary Lewis commented that the 2016 Edition of Election and Related Laws and Rules of North Carolina will need to be updated as per the recent Federal Fourth Circuit judges ruling. Chair Smathers added that forms and training will need to be revised accordingly.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director presented the June 30, 2016 budget and expenditure report, and informed the Board that the July 31, 2016 budget report will be added to the September 14, 2016 meeting.

She reported on the July 2016 Fort Myers, FL national Certified Elections Registrations and Administration (CERA) training. The training was very informative, included many hands on activities for election planning, and was attended by several North Carolina election office administrators.

The Director informed the Board that party chairs have received Board communications to initiate the poll worker assistant search for the upcoming November 8<sup>th</sup> General Election.

#### JLD BUSINESS

Discussion ensued regarding the November 8, 2016 General Election One-Stop Plan. The Board considered the one-stop early voting plan and hourly reduction request that has been already been submitted to the State Board of Elections, parking, security, facilities, and public/voter traffic patterns. The early voting period will begin on Thursday, October 20, 2016 and end on Saturday, November 5, 2016.

The Chair proposed a change from the Beech Glen Community Center to the Mars Hill Public Library due to the extended early voting period and the amount of public traffic and activities that take place at the Beech Glen Community Center. He also revisited past challenges the Board has experienced with securing the voting equipment at the Community Center.

**Moved, Seconded (DS, RL) and Carried (3,0) to establish one-stop early voting sites at the Mars Hill Public Library, the Board of Elections Room 26, and the Hot Springs Community Center with voting hours at the Board of Elections to be 8:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. weekdays, voting hours at the Hot Springs Community Center and Mars Hill Public Library to be 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. weekdays, and all three sites to be open from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on all Saturdays.**

#### NEW BUSINESS

The Director announced that Mars Hill Precinct Chief Judge Linda Campbell has submitted her letter of resignation due to persistent health problems. Hot Springs Democratic Judge Tammy Shelton and Laurel Precinct Republican Judge Audra Chandler will resume their duties during the November 8, 2016 General Election. The Chair instructed the Director to be prepared with recommendations at the September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Moved, Seconded (DS, RL) and Carried (3,0) to assign poll worker assistant assignments on General Election Day as follows: 4 assistants to each of the Mars Hill, Grapevine, Ebbs Chapel, and North Marshall Precincts; 2 assistants to each of the remaining 8 precincts; and 5 runners to the Board of Elections Office.**

**Moved, Seconded (DS, RL) and Carried (3,0) to assign one-stop early voting poll workers as follows: 4 workers each to the Board of Elections and Mars Hill Public Library sites, 3 workers to the Hot Springs Community Center site, and Temporary Office Assistant Jacob Ray as the one-stop coordinator.**

**Moved, Seconded (DS, RL) and Carried (3,0) to approve a resolution to add two additional absentee meetings, take preparatory steps to count absentee ballots at each absentee meeting, and to begin counting absentee ballots at 2:00 p.m. on General Election Day.**

#### OTHER MATTERS

The Director reported on the United States Postal Service and North Carolina State Board of Elections actions to address postmarking issues on absentee ballot return containers. The State Board of Elections has redesigned the absentee ballot return container to measurements acceptable to the USPS postmarking equipment. The Director informed the Board that it has a Business Reply Account with USPS that pays the postage on return mail that does not have sufficient paid postage for delivery to the Board.

The Director also informed the Board that the 24 2D barcode scanners purchased to complement the electronic pollbooks have been returned to the company (Barcodes Inc.).

#### CITIZENS COMMENTS

A citizen indicated black be used to strike out information on the voter registration form because blue appears as highlighting.

A citizen inquired whether Libertarian candidates will be on the General Election ballot and when the filing window closes for Green Party write-in candidates.

A citizen inquired whether straight party voting has been reinstated. He was informed that straight party voting is not allowed.

A citizen commented about the cost per vote in the state of Oregon.

A citizen inquired about planned voter education strategies.


#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

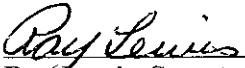
Deputy Director Wade Gahagan commented that several directors and staff from across the state have personally complimented Madison County Board of Elections for its outstanding performance.

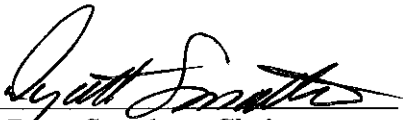
Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. at the Board of Elections.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

  
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Kathy Ray, Director

  
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Ray Lewis, Secretary

  
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Dyatt Smathers, Chair