

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
REGULAR SESSION
Board of Elections Conference Room
Wednesday, February 8, 2017
3:00 PM**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Smathers called the meeting of the Madison County Board of Elections to order at 3:14 p.m. at the Board of Elections Conference Room. In attendance were 3 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 and add Storage Room Transfer under Other Matters.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to approve the January 11, 2017 meeting minutes.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Smathers commented that everybody is waiting on rulings from the court(s) regarding elections. He further informed those present that the State Board of Elections members' terms expire in May and the local board members' terms expire in June. A court ruling will likely be made in the month of March that will impact future Board compositions. He finalized his comments by stating that he is excited about the upcoming Durham State Board Conference, and Madison County's municipal elections will take place in November 2017.

MEMBERS' REPORT

Member Wallin commented that in light of all the controversy regarding voter fraud, he was confident and proud of the fact there was no voter fraud in Madison County.

Secretary Lewis affirmed Member Wallin's statement and stated that Madison County had a 100 percent honest, fair election with no voter fraud.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The January 11, 2017 budget and expenditure report was presented and discussed. The Director pointed out budget amendments have been made to the current budget that will cover upcoming travel related expenses for conferences and trainings.

The Director presented an updated Campaign Finance Report that highlighted the status of each committee. Two committees had to be reported as either late or delinquent during this reporting period.

The Director reported that she has communicated with Printelect on the ExpressVote certification. Printelect expects an answer from the State Board of Elections within 60 to 90 days.

Board members were presented agendas and other information for the upcoming Durham Conference, Savannah Workshop, and Printelect User's Meeting.

Deputy Director Gahagan provided an update on a potential ABC Referendum petition.

Discussion ensued regarding the need to relocate the election supplies storage closet to Room 15.

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to move the election supplies to Room 15.

NEW BUSINESS

The Director presented the 2017-2018 budget proposal and discussion ensued. The budget proposal is based upon current legislation and made need to be amended pending future election law changes and court rulings. The proposal includes funds for training newly appointed election officials, Municipal 2017 election expenses, and the purchase of 2 paper ballot digital image scanners (DS200) and software for the elections office. The Board will review the proposal and worksheets prior to the March 8, 2017 meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding the April NCADE Wilmington Conference that will interfere with the regular Board meeting schedule during the month of April.

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to change the April Board meeting from April 12th to April 19th.

OTHER MATTERS

Discussion ensued regarding suitable sites for the November Municipal polling locations. Chair Smathers appointed a one member subcommittee for each town to gather information from the towns' officials prior to making any decisions. Member Wallin will work with the Town of Marshall, Secretary Lewis will work with the Town of Mars Hill, and Chair Smathers will work with the Town of Hot Springs. The Director emphasized the need for sites that either meet or can be modified to meet acceptable Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.

The Director requested that Deputy Director Wade Gahagan be allowed to attend the March 14th and 21st voting equipment and software meetings.

Moved, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (3,0) to hire Jacob Ray to cover the Board of Elections Office on March 14th and March 21st.

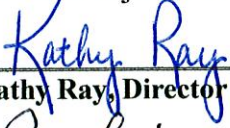
CITIZEN COMMENTS

A citizen commented about reports of fraudulent voting activity.

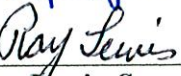
ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Board of Elections meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 8, 2017.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:03 P.M.



Kathy Ray, Director



Ray Lewis, Secretary



Dyatt Smathers, Chairman