

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
SPECIAL SESSION
MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
ROOM 16
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2017
9:00 AM**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Smathers called the meeting of the Madison County Board of Elections to order at 9:04 a.m. In attendance was one member of the public; Dyatt F. Smathers, Chair; Ray Lewis, Secretary; Jerry Wallin, Member; Kathy Ray, Director of Elections; and Wade Gahagan, Deputy Director.

AGENDA

Chair Smathers stated the purpose for the special called meeting as follows:

1. To complete the State Board of Elections (SBOE) Polling Site Survey,
2. To approve the polling sites for the November 2017 Municipal Elections, and
3. To approve the 2017-2018 FY Budget Proposal

POLLING SITE SURVEY

The Chair expressed his displeasure with the timing of and deadline for responding to the SBOE survey thus requiring the special meeting.

The Director explained that the survey spreadsheet includes both used and potential polling sites.

The Chair suggested that the Board discuss and reach consensus regarding the completion of the survey. Secretary Lewis and Board Member Wallin agreed. The Board was further charged that each polling site was to be rated on a scale from Levels 1-5, with a Level 1 being the lowest rating and a Level 5 being the highest.

The Board discussed, reached consensus on the issues and rating, and completed the survey (see attached) for the individual polling sites on the spreadsheet with the exception of the Precinct Building on Hwy 63. Following a robust discussion of the Sandy Mush site, the Board was unable to reach consensus; and Chair Smathers called for a motion and vote.

Motion by (JW) to rate Sandy Mush Precinct Building a Level 3. The motion died for lack of a second.

Moved, Seconded (RL, DS) and Carried (2,1) to rate Sandy Mush Precinct Building a Level 1. Member Wallin voted against the motion.

The Board recessed at 10:30 a.m. and reconvened at 10:40 a.m.

The Board continued its work of discussing and rating of the polling sites.

The Board identified and added to the survey spreadsheet The Madison County Library – Marshall, 1335 N Main St, Marshall, NC 28753; Ebbs Chapel Fire Department, 680 Puncheon Fork Rd, Mars Hill, NC 28754; and The Marshall Depot, 282 S Main St, Marshall, NC 28753 as potential sites to rate.

MUNICIPAL POLLING SITES

Board members canvassed town leaders for their input on polling site locations and reported on their findings.

Discussion ensued regarding the polling site for the Town of Marshall November 2017 Municipal Election.

Moved, Seconded (JW, RL) and Carried (3,0) to approve The Marshall Depot, 282 S Main St, Marshall, NC 28753 as the polling site.

Discussion ensued regarding the polling site for the Town of Mars Hill November 2017 Municipal Election.

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to approve Mars Hill Public Library, 25 Library St, Mars Hill, NC 28754 as the polling site.

Discussion ensued regarding the polling site for the Town of Hot Springs November 2017 Municipal Election.

Moved, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (3,0) to approve Hot Springs Welcome Center, 106 Bridge Street, Hot Springs, NC 28743 as the polling site.

The Chair recessed the meeting at 11:30 a.m. and reconvened at 11:45 a.m.

2017-2018 BUDGET PROPOSAL

Discussion ensued regarding the 2017-2018 budget proposal. The Director informed the Board that the budget proposal reflects funds necessary to conduct both the primary and the municipal elections. She elaborated that primary elections are the most complex and expensive due to costs associated with preparing for partisan contests. The budget proposal also reflects required funds for new voting equipment testing, for the addition of a fourth board member (pending court ruling), and for training of newly appointed precinct judges. The Board of Elections will collect approximately \$24K in revenue funds from filing fees, voter lists, and municipal elections costs.

The Chair recessed the meeting for lunch at 12:15 p.m. and reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

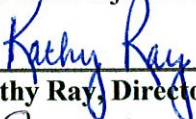
The Director provided the Board with accumulated vacation, sick, and compensatory time for the office staff. She informed Board members that the 2017-2018 budget proposal does not include funds to cover the costs if leave time is taken and office coverage is needed or in the event compensatory payment becomes necessary.

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to approve the 2017-2018 Budget Proposal.

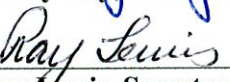
The Director commented on the Savannah, GA Election Center workshop content and provided the Board the School of Government Conference materials.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.



Kathy Ray, Director



Ray Lewis, Secretary



Dyatt Smathers, Chair