

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
REGULAR SESSION
Board of Elections Conference Room
Wednesday, April 19, 2017
3:00 PM**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Smathers called the meeting of the Madison County Board of Elections to order at 3:00 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 (JW, RL) and Carried (3,0) to move "Closed Session" to follow "Citizens Comments."

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 meeting minutes for March 8, 2017.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair complimented the Wilmington Conference as being one of the best he has been involved in. He further complimented the Deputy Director's work and efforts at the conference and commented about how well respected he is by the NCADE Association.

The Chair reported on two legislative bills that are pending. House Bill 65 (if passed) will provide matching grant funds to counties to assist with purchasing new voting equipment. Senate Bill 68 (if passed) will determine who will be on the local and state boards of elections.

The Chair reported that the Director and he will meet with the county political party chairs at a May meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to inform the Chairs of their duties regarding the selection of precinct officials and poll workers.

MEMBERS' REPORTS

Member Lewis commented that the Wilmington Conference sessions that included a former State Board of Elections General Counsel staff member and a former North Carolina General Assembly legal staff member were the most beneficial sessions that he has attended thus far.

Member Wallin commented that the State Board of Elections former General Counsel made good points about the importance of non-partisan decision-making among Board members and emphasized decisions that are voter friendly.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The March 31, 2017 budget and expenditure report was presented and discussed.

The Director provided a list that specifies the destruction on May 9th of specific office and election documents and training materials. The list is spread across the minutes of this meeting.

The Director updated the Board regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) checklist and survey of the Marshall Railroad Depot. A van accessible parking area, a crosswalk on Main Street, and the voter access pathway(s) will have to be clearly marked. A threshold riser will be required to mitigate the doorway at the entrance of the voting enclosure.

OLD BUSINESS

The Director reported the State Board of Elections has not sent permission for the county to purchase the requested DS200s to replace the M100s that are used to tabulate paper ballots.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved, Seconded (JW, RL) and Carried (3,0) to reschedule the regular July 2017 meeting to Tuesday, July 18th at noon.

Moved, Seconded (JW, RL) and Carried (3,0) to reschedule the regular August 2017 meeting to Tuesday, August 22nd at noon.

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to relocate the Hot Springs Precinct polling site from the Hot Springs Elementary School to the Hot Springs Welcome Center for the 2017 Municipal Election only.

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to relocate the Mars Hill Precinct and Beech Glen Precinct polling sites from Mars Hill Elementary School and Beech Glen Community Center to the Mars Hill Public Library for the 2017 Municipal Election only.

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to relocate the North Marshall Precinct and South Marshall Precinct polling sites from Madison High School and Marshall Community Center to the Marshall Railroad Depot for the 2017 Municipal Election only.

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to transfer Beech Glen voters that are eligible to vote in the 2017 Mars Hill Municipal Election to the Mars Hill Precinct for the 2017 Municipal Election only.

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to transfer South Marshall Precinct voters that are eligible to vote in the 2017 Marshall Municipal Election to the North Marshall Precinct for the 2017 Municipal Election only.

Discussion ensued regarding the need for the Deputy Director to obtain GIS certification through Asheville Buncombe Technical Institute. The certification requires the completion of four online classes.

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to approve the Deputy Director to take the classes and obtain the GIS certification.

The Director reported to the Board that Temporary Office Assistant Jacob Ray will be covering the office on Monday, May 1st for the office staff to attend a District NCADE meeting and during the week of May 8th for the office staff to attend The Election Center classes at Auburn University.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

A citizen inquired about the matching funds for voting equipment referenced in HB 655.

A citizen complimented the office staff's efforts to improve professional skills.

A citizen inquired about the process to fill an unexpected vacancy in the Marshall Alderman's race.

CLOSED SESSION (PERSONNEL)

Moved, Seconded (JW, RL) and Carried (3,0) to go into a personnel session to discuss salaries.

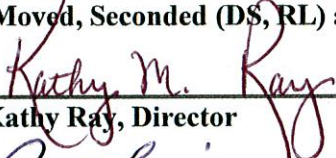
The Chair recessed the meeting at 4:12 p.m. for a short break before beginning the closed session.

Moved, Seconded (DS, RL) and Carried (3,0) to return to open session at 4:45 p.m.

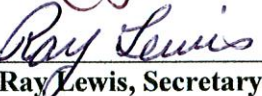
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.

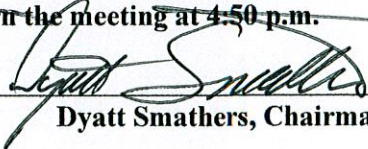
Moved, Seconded (DS, RL) and Carried (3,0) to adjourn the meeting at 4:50 p.m.



Kathy Ray, Director



Ray Lewis, Secretary



Dyatt Smathers, Chairman