

Madison County Board of Elections

Meeting Minutes

Regular / Special Session – July 18, 2017

The Madison County Board of Elections met on Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at noon in the Board of Elections Conference Room, Room 16. In attendance: Dyatt Smathers, Board Chair; Ray Lewis, Board Secretary; Jerry Wallin, Board Member; Kathy Ray, Director; and three (3) members of the public.

Call to Order:

Chair Smathers called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

Agenda:

As per guidance from the State Board of Elections, Chair Smathers amended the agenda by:

Removing the agenda items “Swearing in of Board Members for the 2017-2019 term” and “Election of Board Chair and Secretary”; and,

Informing those present that the Board will remain a three member Board until new appointments are made.

The aforementioned agenda items are on hold pending further guidance from the State Board of Elections.

Secretary Lewis made a motion: *To set the meeting agenda as amended by the Chair.* Member Wallin seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes were read from the Regular and Closed Session meetings on June 21, 2017.

Secretary Lewis made a motion: *To Approve the Minutes from the June 21, 2017 meeting.* Member Wallin seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Chair’s Report:

Chair Smathers reported that he met with the school superintendent to discuss the use of the schools for polling places. The school superintendent assured the Chair that the school system

will cooperate with adjusting the school calendar and preparing the polling sites as needed during the primary 2018 election(s).

The Chair announced that the Director has obtained the Certified Election/Registration Administrator (CERA) certification.

Members' Reports:

Secretary Lewis congratulated the Director on obtaining the CERA certification. He expressed that he would like to see timely court decisions that will allow Board member appointments and for business to be conducted as usual.

Member Wallin also expressed his concern that the two year terms of office that are North Carolina General Statute driven for Board members and precinct officials. The delay will interfere with timely appointments and terms.

Director's Report:

Director Ray presented the June 30, 2017 budget report. Discussion ensued about the cost for primary elections vs. general elections. There was also a short discussion of the impact that the partisan school board election will have on the election coding. The Director reported that the municipalities reimburse the county for spreading their elections.

Director Ray informed the Board that *Printelect* has completed the voting equipment's annual maintenance. The machines with the least use will be identified and used in the largest precincts and one stop sites during the 2018 election.

Director Ray provided the Board with a status update on the pending SBOE certification of Election Systems & Software's ExpressVote.

Director Ray provided a report on the CERA certification classes. Chair Smathers reported that the office was well covered in the absence of the Director and Deputy Director.

Director Ray provided a status report on the changing of the Board of Elections and Room 26 entrance locks.

New Business:

The Director informed the Board that the Town of Marshall has completed a thorough review of the Town's boundaries and determined that 7 properties on Mato Road are not located within the Town limits. As a result of the research, the Town has determined the voters residing at the properties are not eligible to vote in the Town of Marshall elections. The Board of Elections has adjusted the street range accordingly, removed the affected voters from the Town's voter registration, and mailed them a voter verification card indicating the change in eligibility to vote in the Town's elections.

Secretary Lewis made a motion: *To include the letter dated June 27, 2017 from the Town of Marshall to Director Ray in the minutes of the July 18, 2017 board meeting.* Member Wallin seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Director Ray presented the Board with the Sales Order for the two (2) DS 200 voting machines. The sales order has been sent to the county commissioners to initiate the purchase of the new voting equipment.

Other Matters:

The Director presented a Municipal 2017 Candidate List. She added that two county commissioner candidates have filed their campaign finance organizational forms for the 2018 Election.

Citizen Comments:

A citizen inquired why the April and May 2017 Board meeting minutes are not available on the website.

A citizen commented about the SBOE's efforts to provide opportunities for public comment on the "dozens" of draft rules that affect election administration and how the system works. He assumed that the local staff boards of elections know about these opportunities to provide feedback.

A citizen inquired if all future meetings will be held at 12:00 noon.

Other Matters (Continued)

Chair Smathers made the motion: *That Jerry Wallin immediately assume the Chairmanship of the Board.* Secretary Ray Lewis seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued regarding the motion in light of the pending court ruling and board appointments.

Chair Smathers called for the motion the second time, and motion carried unanimously. He thanked the Board for its collegiality during his term as Chair.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Chairman Wallin made a motion: *To adjourn the meeting.* Member Smathers seconded and motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

Minutes Approved August 22, 2017

Kathy M. Ray
Kathy Ray, Director

Jerry Wallin
Jerry Wallin, Chairman

Ray Lewis
Ray Lewis, Secretary