

# **Madison County Board of Elections**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Regular – September 20, 2017**

The Madison County Board of Elections met on Wednesday, September 20, 2017 at 3:00 P.M. in the Board of Elections Conference Room. In attendance: Jerry Wallin, Chairman; Ray Lewis, Secretary; Dyatt Smathers, Member; Kathy Ray, Director; and three (3) members of the public.

#### **Call to Order:**

Chairman Wallin called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.

#### **Agenda:**

Director Ray presented an amended agenda for the Board's review and approval. Secretary Lewis made a motion: *To set the agenda as amended.* Member Smathers seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

Member Smathers made a motion: *To approve the minutes from the August 22, 2017 meeting.* Secretary Lewis seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **Chairman and Members' Reports:**

The Chairman updated the Board on the Laurel School site and the problems with the septic system.

Member Smathers commented on the growth of the unaffiliated voter population and the impact on elections. He reported that statewide, the number of unaffiliated voters has eclipsed the number of voters affiliated with the Republican Party.

The Chairman reported on the court rulings and *Cooper vs. Berger*.

#### **Director's Report:**

The Director presented the August 31, 2017 budget report. The funds for the purchase of the DS200 voting equipment have been moved into the capital equipment line item.

The Director presented a <sup>proposed</sup> three year phase in action plan to replace the current voting system. The county manager has been provided a copy of the plan. The plan for replacing the voting system will give the needed time to spread out costs, evaluate needs and expenditures over time, and implement the plan according to the most current information available.

The Director reported that the state geographical boundary between North Carolina and South Carolina has changed, and the change has impacted some counties' boundaries, including Madison. The State Board of Elections and Ethics Commission has given the counties the directive to make the necessary changes to the voter registration database and provided the shape files to guide the work.

The Director updated the Board on the progress of the 2010 Census Precinct Project.

The Director updated the Board on the progress of the State Board of Elections and Ethics Commission Certification Program.

The Director requested permission to schedule the destruction of records as per the Records Retention and Disposition Schedule. Member Smathers made the motion: ***To destroy administrative, personnel, and voter registration application documents.*** Secretary Lewis seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Director updated the Board regarding the procurement of student assistant poll workers. Madison High School and Madison Early College principals have been contacted. Both were receptive to the recruitment effort through the civics departments at their schools. Member Smathers requested that the recruitment be expanded to include private and home schooled students. A student recruitment brochure was presented.

#### **New Business:**

The Director announced that the 2017 Municipal Election training for precinct officials and assistants will be Monday, October 23, 2017 in Room 26 from 4:00 to 8:00 P.M.

Chairman Wallin made the motion: ***To accept the resignation of Spring Creek Democratic Judge Katty Hunter and approve the Democratic Party Chair recommendation for Karen Carraway.*** Secretary Lewis seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Secretary Lewis made the motion: ***To move the Board of Elections' observance of Veteran's Day from November 10<sup>th</sup> to November 22<sup>nd</sup>.*** Member Smathers seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Member Smathers made the motion: ***To approve the list of precinct officials, poll worker assistants, and temporary office staff for the 2017 Municipal Election.*** Secretary Lewis seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **Other Matters:**

Member Smathers made the motion: ***To move the regular Board of Elections' meeting from November 8<sup>th</sup> to November 17<sup>th</sup>, to immediately follow the canvass meeting.*** Secretary Lewis seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Member Smathers commented on the rigor of meeting election certification requirements and compensation for obtaining certification levels that are above and beyond the call of duty. He noted that the Director recently obtained national Elections Center certification, the Deputy Director will be both state and nationally certified within the next year, that he recently obtained NC State Board certification, that Secretary Lewis is ready to sit for the final assessment, and that Chairman Wallin is a NC State Board certified election official.

Member Smathers made the motion: *To immediately increase the Director's compensation by \$25.00 per month.* Chairman Wallin seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Member Smathers made the motion: *That any current board member who is state certified, with the exception of himself, receive an additional \$25 dollars per month for that state certification; and that when the next board is finally appointed, any member of that board who is state certified receive the additional \$25 per month.* Discussion ensued.

Member Smathers amended his motion: *To increase board member compensation by \$25 per month for members who are NC State Board certified beginning in January 2018.* Secretary Lewis seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Citizen Comments:**

A citizen commented about a former study of unaffiliated voters.

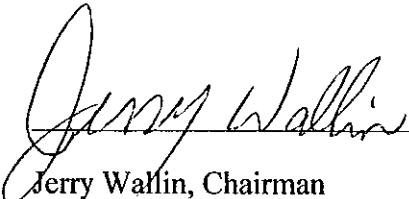
A citizen commented that she thinks that a lot of people have registered as unaffiliated because they are disgusted with both parties. She remarked that it should be easier for unaffiliated voters to obtain enough signatures for candidacy.


**Adjournment:**

With no further business, Member Smathers made a motion: *To adjourn the meeting.* Secretary Lewis seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Minutes Approved 10/11/17

  
Kathy Ray, Director

  
Jerry Wallin, Chairman

  
Ray Lewis, Secretary