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**Madison County Board of Elections
Meeting Minutes
Regular – January 10, 2018**

The Madison County Board of Elections met on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 3:00 P.M. in the Board of Elections Conference Room. In attendance: Jerry Wallin, Chair; Ray Lewis, Secretary; Dyatt Smathers, Member; Kathy Ray, Director; and three (3) members of the public.

Call to Order:

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

Agenda:

Member Smathers made a motion: *To add an executive session to discuss employees.* Secretary Lewis seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Member Smathers made a motion: *To approve the agenda as amended.* Secretary Lewis seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Secretary Lewis made a motion: *To approve the December 13, 2017 meeting minutes.* Member Smathers seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Chair's and Members' Reports:

Chair Wallin reported on the status of recent court rulings and the congressional districts.

Member Smathers responded to questions and suggestions he has encountered with regard to the purchase of new voting equipment. He has been asked if paper ballots could be transported to the Board of Elections office for counting, and if not, could the number of precincts in Madison County be reduced. In response, he referenced 8 NCAC 10B.0105 that mandates ballots must be counted by the chief judge and judges as soon as the polls close, without adjournment or postponement, and continue until complete. Both he and Chair Wallin commented on the upcoming 2010 Census Project that has the potential to increase the current number of Madison County precincts based upon population growth and distribution. He suggested that the Board develop a long range plan with regard to voting sites, precincts, and new voting equipment.

Director's Report:

The Director presented the December 31, 2017 budget report

The Director provided information regarding the use of the Marshall Community Center as a voting site in the 2018 elections. She informed the Board of Elections that the Commissioners have decided to sell the facility and will allow the Board of Elections to continue to use the facility as a polling site while the property is being marketed.

The Director provided updated information on petition rules for candidate filing and the formation of new political parties.

Old Business:

Member Smathers reported that the cover letter and Board of Elections Resolution to Extend the Decertification Deadline of the Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) Voting Equipment has jarred some legislative action. The Speaker of the House is asking for legislation to address funding for the purchase of new election equipment for the counties that are affected by the decertification of the DREs.

Member Smathers made a motion: *To submit the Madison County Board of Elections Three Year Phase-In Plan for the Purchase of New Voting Equipment to the County Commissioners for approval and funding.* Secretary Lewis seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

The Director provided data regarding traffic patterns at each one-stop site during previous elections.

Member Smathers made a motion: *To provide three (3) one-stop sites, one in each of the three municipalities, during the 2018 primary election.* Discussion ensued. Member Smathers withdrew the motion. The Director will provide the Board members with additional one-stop data from the 2016 primary election regarding costs and number of voters at each site.

Chair Wallin made a motion: *To approve Jewell Hensley as the Hot Springs Precinct Democratic Judge.* Member Smathers seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Other Matters:

Member Smathers commented on a recent report by Democracy NC in which the author recommends, "The State Board of Elections should request funding from the General Assembly to assist with upgrading voting equipment and other election costs – which are currently borne exclusively by the counties."

Citizens Comments:

A citizen inquired how the numbers have changed regarding petition signatures to create new political parties.

A citizen objected to a cost analysis per voter and emphasized availability for planning one stop sites.

A citizen stated that he, too, thought accessibility and ease of access should be the priorities in one-stop planning.

Closed Session:

Member Smathers made a motion: *To move the meeting into executive session to discuss personnel performance and salary.* Chair Wallin seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Member Smathers made a motion: *To increase the Deputy Director's salary by \$25 per month upon his obtaining the Certified Elections Registration/Administrator's certification; to increase both the Director's and Deputy Director's current salaries by 2 percent; and to retain the current rate of monthly compensation for four Board of Elections members in the 2018-2019 budget proposal.* Secretary Lewis seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Announcements:

Next meeting: January 10, 2018

Durham School of Government Conference: January 28-30, 2018


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 5:00 p.m.

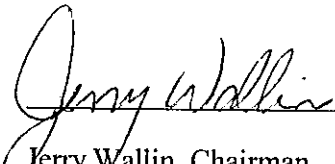
Minutes Approved 02-14-18



Kathy Ray, Director



Ray Lewis, Secretary



Jerry Wallin, Chairman