

Madison County Board of Elections

Meeting Minutes

Regular Session – June 19, 2019

The Madison County Board of Elections met on Wednesday, June 19, 2019 in the Board of Elections Office, Room 16. In attendance: Jerry Wallin, Chair; Ray Lewis, Secretary; Dyatt Smathers, Member; Sandra Tolley, Member; Brian Ball, Member; Kathy Ray, Director; Wade Gahagan, Deputy Director; and 2 members of the public.

Call to Order:

Chair Wallin called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Agenda:

Moved, Seconded (DS,RL) and Carried (5,0) to conduct the Closed Session after Citizens Comments.

Moved, Seconded (ST,BB) and Carried (5,0) to approve the agenda as amended.

Minutes:

Moved, Seconded (DS,BB) and Carried (5,0) to approve the May 14, 2019 meeting minutes.

Chair's Report:

Chair Wallin announced that voting equipment certification has been delayed by the State Board of Elections request for additional information from each of the vendors.

Members' Reports:

Member Smathers commented that he is considering the needs at the Sandy Mush Precinct Building and site and is committed to finding a long term solution so that voters in that precinct are allowed to vote in that precinct.

Director's Report:

The Director provided the May 31, 2019 budget and 2019-2020 Proposed Budget Reports.

The Director reported that the 25 laptops computers have been approved by the Commissioners and ordered.

The Director reported that the 2010 Precinct Project is underway. The Board will receive proposed precinct maps from the State Board of Elections prior to July 1st and have until October 1st to respond if there are requested changes.

The Director reported that the only remaining PCII security issue to address is mounting the security camera in the adjoining Department of Social Services hallway. The issue was tabled pending a meeting between the Department of Social Services and Board of Elections Boards.

The Director reported that the South Marshall Precinct has not yet passed inspection for occupancy. All three towns confirmed the polling sites for the 2019 municipal elections to be Mars Hill Public Library, Hot Springs Welcome Center, and Marshall Community Center.

The Director announced that the Deputy Director will be taking the North Carolina Elections Administrator certification exam in July.

New Business:

The Director reported that Laurel Community Center has not submitted a lease agreement to consider for the storage room at this time. Alternatively, Member Smathers submitted photographs and a plan to purchase a 30 feet enclosed portable cargo trailer for storage of the security carts. The Board requested the Director work with the Maintenance Director and County Manager to identify a suitable parking site. Pros and cons of both plans were discussed. A decision was tabled until the July 17, 2019 meeting.

Citizens Comments:

A citizen suggested that the Board of Elections consider using a portable storage container for voting purposes at the Sandy Mush Precinct and thanked the Board for considering needed improvements to the precinct voting sites.

A citizen commented that Durham County electronic pollbooks are currently being evaluated due to Russian hacking efforts. He further opined that voting rights should be protected under the U.S. Constitution's 1st Amendment.

Closed Session

Moved, Seconded (JW,DS) and Carried (5,0) to go into Closed Session for personnel matters.

Return to Regular Session

Moved, Seconded (DS,JW) and Carried (5,0) to write a letter to the county commissioners regarding the need for additional funding in the 2019-2020 budget year.

Announcements:

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment:

Moved, Seconded (RL,BB) and Carried (5,0) to adjourn.

Minutes Approved: 7/17/19

Chair Jerry Wallin

Secretary Ray Lewis

Director Kathy Ray