

Madison County Board of Elections

Meeting Minutes

Regular Session – April 17, 2019

The Madison County Board of Elections met on Wednesday, April 17, 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 approve the agenda.

Minutes:

Moved, Seconded (BB, DS) and Carried (5,0) to approve the March 20, 2019 meeting minutes.

Chair's Report:

Chair Wallin commented about the U. S. Elections Assistance Commission's presentation at the NCADE Conference in Hickory and provided information on the upcoming District 9 election.

Member's Reports:

Member Tolley expressed appreciation to the office staff for the email updates and State Board of Elections numbered memos. She felt the Board was well prepared for the NCADE Conference Presentations.

Member Lewis echoed Member Tolley's comments and thanked the office staff for keeping the Board informed.

Member Smathers commented on the changing legislation regarding university and other government agencies and photo IDs that are acceptable for voting purposes. He also commented that the article "Advantages of Paper Ballot / Precinct Based Optical Scan Voting Systems over Electronic Touch Screen Voting Machines" was very informative and reinforced his confidence in the Board's decisions regarding paper balloting equipment.

Member Ball commented that the NCADE Conference provided him the opportunity to observe Printelect's demonstration of the paper ballot voting equipment and process. He also expressed appreciation for the opportunity to attend the conference and for the Board's thoughtfulness during the loss of his father.

Chair Wallin finalized the comments by expressing appreciation to the office staff for hearing the Board's former discussions about the use of laptops for Board business and following up with issuing the Board members a laptop computer.

Director's Report:

The new office locks have been installed, and a key security plan has been developed.

The March 31, 2019 budget revenue and expenditure report was presented. The Board discussed specific line items that are being used to purchase new voting equipment and supplies. The iVotronic rolling racks will be donated to the high school once the iVotronic voting equipment is picked up by the company. The State Board of Elections will reimburse the County Board for the purchase of the Voter ID equipment and extended warranty.

The 2019-2020 budget allocation is still pending.

All approved voting equipment has been ordered with the exception of the 14 ADA ballot markers that will be needed for the 2020 elections.

The 2010 Precinct Project is still pending. The Director added that the County Maintenance Department will repair the damage done by heaving trucks that are parking at the Sandy Mush Precinct Building site. The Department of Transportation will place signage at the sight to discourage parking of heavy vehicles.

The State Board of Elections' required Photo ID seminars are scheduled for August 8, 2019 at the AB Tech Auditorium at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Staff Board staff have confirmed the date and times and will be present.

A closed session was requested for the Deputy Director to present a laptop demonstration that included secured login information.

Moved, Seconded (DS, RL) and Carried (5,0) to go into closed session for laptop login demonstration.

Either Shirley Ponder or Dean Benfield will cover the office during the week of April 23-26 for the office staff to attend the CERA Workshop in Virginia Beach.

New Business:

The Board viewed a video presentation of storage racks for voting equipment and supplies and paper ballots.

Moved, Seconded (DS, BB) and Carried (5,0) to approve the purchase of 12 EZ Cart 3000 storage racks (\$17,400.00), 13 rolling ballot bags (\$2,253.29), and 1 ballot storage cart (\$4,250.00) for a total of \$23,903.29.

Other Matters:

Moved, Seconded (RL, ST) and Carried (5,0) to approve the Town of Mars Hill Municipal Agreement.

Citizens Comments:

A citizen commented that she had concerns about paper balloting and the equipment being used.

A citizen inquired about the availability of county funds for upgrades at the Sandy Mush Precinct.

Announcements:

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment:

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

Kathy Ray, Director
Jerry Walker Chair
Roy Lewis Secretary