

# **Madison County Board of Elections**

## **Absentee Meeting Minutes**

**September 29, 2020**

The Madison County Board of Elections met on Tuesday, September 29, 2020. In attendance: Jerry Wallin, Chair; Ray Lewis, Secretary; Dyatt Smathers, Member; Sandra Tolley, Member; Brian Ball, Member; Kathy Ray, Director; and three members of the public.

### **Call to Order:**

Chair Wallin called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

### **Agenda:**

Member Ball requested that Item 10 Public Comment be moved to occur before Item 5 Preparatory Steps to Count Ballots.

**Motion, Seconded (DS, ST) and Carried (5,0) to approve the agenda as amended.**

### **Minutes:**

**Motion, Seconded (ST, DS) and Carried (5,0) to approve the September 16, 2020 meetings minutes.**

### **Members' Reports:**

Chair Wallin asked the board to consider adopting a policy to sign a cover sheet for the list of absentee ballots in lieu of signing each absentee envelope.

**Motion, Seconded (BB, RL) and Carried (5,0) to sign a cover sheet for the list of absentee ballots in lieu of signing or stamping each absentee envelope as per guidance in Numbered Memo 2020-25.**

Member Smathers commented that he has the highest regard for the work that is being done and the positive relationships among the board members and staff during this time of uncertainty and contention.

Chair Wallin thanked Member Lewis for making contacts regarding the confusion over the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) office location. DMV traffic at the Board of Elections site has been greatly reduced as a result of Member Lewis's communications.

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

The Director indicated that office operations were back on track.

### **Public Comment:**

No Public Comments were made.

**Preparatory Steps to Count Ballots:**

The voting equipment was reconciled with the chain of custody, secured with dedicated seals, and opened to produce the zero totals tape.

**Absentee Ballots' Approval:**

Civilian (CIV) Ballots

1. **Laurel Precinct: Motion, Seconded (DS, BB) and Carried (5,0) to approve 26 absentee ballots.**
2. **Revere Rice Cove Precinct: Motion, Seconded (BB, DS) and Carried (5,0) to approve 4 absentee ballots.**

**Motion, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (5,0) to verify and approve the zero tape on the DS200 voting machine.**

3. **Spring Creek Precinct: Motion, Seconded (BB, DS) and Carried (5,0) to approve 56 absentee ballots.**
4. **Grapevine Precinct: Motion, Seconded (JW, DS) and Carried (5,0) to move one ballot from "accepted" status to "pending cure" status, one ballot from "pending cure" to "accepted" status, and approve 34 absentee ballots.**
5. **Walnut Precinct: Motion, Seconded (JW, RL) and Carried (5,0) to approve 53 absentee ballots.**
6. **Sandy Mush Precinct: Motion, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (5,0) to approve 27 absentee ballots.**
7. **Ebbs Chapel Precinct: Motion, Seconded (JW, RL) and Carried (5,0) to approve 46 absentee ballots.**
8. **Hot Springs Precinct: Motion, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (5,0) to approve 10 absentee ballots.**
9. **Beech Glen Precinct: Motion, Seconded (DS, RL) and Carried (5,0) to approve 77 absentee ballots.**
10. **South Marshall Precinct: Motion, Seconded (DS, RL) and Carried (5,0) to approve 33 absentee ballots.**
11. **North Marshall Precinct: Motion, Seconded (DS, BB) and Carried (5,0) to approve 83 absentee ballots.**

During ballot counting, one North Marshall ballot was mistakenly recounted in the DS200 following a ballot jam in which the ballot was counted but not saved to the bin. An incident report was completed and signed by the board. The extra ballot will be retrieved from the vote count and results during the canvass period.

**12. Mars Hill Precinct: Motion, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (5,0) to move one ballot from "accepted" for review and approve 156 absentee ballots.**

One Mars Hill Precinct voter was issued a North Marshall ballot style. Afterwards, he updated his voter registration which required duplication on the Mars Hill Precinct ballot style.

**Motion, Seconded (DS, ST) and Carried (5,0) to go into closed session to duplicate 13 civilian ballots, 9 overseas ballots, and 1 military ballot.**

**Motion, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (5,0) to return to open session.**

Overseas (OVR) Ballots:

**Motion, Seconded (BB, JW) and Carried (5,0) to approve 3 Grapevine Precinct, 1 North Marshall Precinct, 1 South Marshall Precinct, 2 Walnut Precinct, and 2 Beech Glen Precinct overseas ballots.**

Military (MIL) Ballots:

**Motion, Seconded (BB, RL) and Carried (5,0) to approve 1 Beech Glen Precinct and 2 Mars Hill Precinct military ballots.**

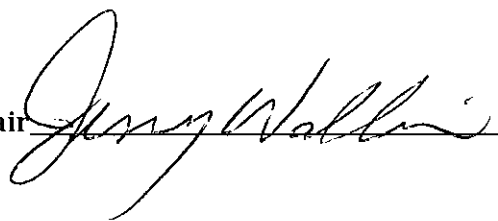
The duplicated ballot log was created and original ballots were sealed for storage.

Counted ballots were removed from the DS200 and sealed for storage.

The Board recorded the ending ballot count of 618 ballots and sealed the machine for storage.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion, Seconded (BB, DS) and Carried (5,0) to adjourn at 7:10 p.m.**

Chair 

Secretary 