

Madison County Board of Elections

Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2019

The Madison County Board of Elections met on Wednesday, September 18, 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; Jennifer Caldwell, Madison Early College Principal; Peggy Goforth, Madison County Library Director; and 2 members of the public.

Call to Order:

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

Agenda:

Motion, Seconded (DS, ST) and Carried (5,0) to approve the amended agenda to move Other Matters and Old Business items to precede the Members' Reports.

Minutes:

Motion, Seconded (ST, BB) and Carried (5,0) to approve the August 20 and September 12, 2019 meeting minutes.

Other Matters:

Madison County Library Director Peggy Goforth provided the Board with information and data regarding the impact of the Mars Hill Public Library early voting site on librarian programming and participation. Among the challenges discussed was the impact on library programming, ingress and egress problems in the parking area, and the limited parking available for library patrons. The Board is exploring optional sites in the Mars Hill area.

Old Business:

Madison Early College Principal Jennifer Caldwell provided the Board with information regarding the use of the Madison Early College site as the polling location for the North Marshall Precinct. She informed the Board that no student classes are in session at the Madison Early College campus on Election Days and there was plenty of parking and easy access to the building for voters. The Board will consider an onsite visit to the campus during its October 16, 2019 board meeting.

Board Member Reports:

Chair Wallin commented regarding proposed redistricting and the progress made to adopt and acquire the ExpressVote ADA Ballot Marker. He also commented on the state budget and funding for the new voting equipment.

Member Tolley commented that the Haywood County State Board of Elections meeting had useful information regarding newly certified voting equipment.

Secretary Lewis expressed he was thankful to be back at the table.

Member Smathers expressed his appreciation for the accommodations made for his telephonic participation during the September 20, 2019 meeting. He also commended the Board's actions to acquire the best ADA voting equipment available.

Member Ball commented on the need for increased training for poll workers regarding paper ballot reconciliation.

Director's Report:

The Director provided updates as follows:

- The August 2019 budget report and the impact of boards' actions on the budget;
- The submission of 38 voter registration books (1902-1908) to the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources;
- The 2010 Precinct Project State Board of Elections Response to Madison County Board of Elections action to accept the State Board's precinct boundary changes and to maintain its current polling sites;
- The South Marshall Community Center and potential sunlight problems and Sandy Mush Precinct site improvement initiative;
- The Madison County Sales Tax Resolution and Referendum for the March 2020 Primary Election;
- The October 26 and November 1 Municipal Precinct Official Training Sessions;
- The ADA voting equipment test and State Board of Elections guidance;
- The Buncombe County State Board of Elections training session on Monday, September 23, 2019 on paper balloting and security;
- The Board office will be closed on Monday, September 23, 2019 for staff to attend the State Board of Elections training in Buncombe County; and
- The distribution of documents regarding the implementation of Photo ID and absentee mail-in balloting.

New Business:

Motion, Seconded (DS, RL) and Carried (5,0) to increase Wade Gahagan's monthly compensation by \$25.00 per month for obtaining the North Carolina State Board of Elections Administrator certification and to begin with the September 16-29, 2019 pay period.

The Director informed the Board that party chairs have been notified to submit poll worker assistant recommendations for the 2019 Municipal Elections. The recommendations will be presented to the Board during the October 16, 2019 meeting. The Director requested the Board approved Bean Benfield and Judy Ball as temporary office assistants.

Motion, Seconded (BB, DS) and Carried (5,0) to approve Dean Benfield and Judy Ball as temporary office assistants.

Citizens Comments:

A citizen inquired about spoiled ballot procedures, cited an email that contained information regarding redistricting for the 2020 elections, and commented on his online search for ES&S product descriptions.

A citizen expressed concerns surrounding ES&S contracts, source codes, and certification procedures.

A citizen reported that the Sandy Mush Precinct Building site has been mowed and six no parking signs have been placed.

Closed Session

Motion Seconded (DS, RL) and Carried (5,0) to go into Closed Session for personnel.

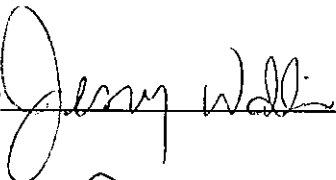
Motion, Seconded (DS, BB) and Carried (5,0) to add Jacob Ray to the list of temporary office assistants for the Municipal Elections of 2019.

Announcements:

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, October 16, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment:

Motion, Seconded (DS, ST) and Carried (5,0) to adjourn at 4:25 p.m.

Chair 
Secretary 