

# Madison County Board of Elections

## Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2019

The Madison County Board of Elections met on Wednesday, October 16, 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; Chris Maney, Madison County Parks and Recreation 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 September 18, 2019 meeting minutes.**

### **Other Matters:**

Discussion ensued regarding the use of the foyer at Beech Glen Community Center as an early voting site. Madison County Parks and Recreation Director Chris Maney provided the Board with information about the activities and schedule at Beech Glen Community Center. He emphasized that the building is highly utilized by the community seven days a week. The foyer is the main entrance utilized by the public, serves as the main hub for all building activities, and is the only area that has restrooms within the facility. Member Ball made the point that utilizing the Beech Glen Community Center foyer for the early voting site created some voter confusion about where voting was taking place within the facility on Election Day.

### **Citizens Comments:**

A citizen requested an update on the Sandy Mush Precinct Building improvement initiatives. The Chair and Director provided information that the indenture for the building and property has been turned over to the county attorney for review and next steps. The Madison County Maintenance Department is preparing the building for mold testing.

**Old Business:**

Discussion ensued regarding the use of Madison Early College High School (MECHS) as the North Marshall Precinct polling place.

**Moved, Seconded (DS, RL) and Carried (5,0) to recess the meeting at 3:25 p.m. for a site visit to MECHS.** MECHS Principal Jennifer Caldwell provided the Board with an onsite tour of Madison Early College campus.

**Moved, Seconded (JW, DS) and Carried (5,0) to return to regular session at 4:00 p.m.**

Member Smathers commented that there are many pluses in moving the polling site to MECHS.

**Moved, Seconded (DS, BB) and Carried (5,0) to move the North Marshall Precinct polling site from Madison High School to Madison Early College High School for all future elections.**

Discussion ensued regarding the March 3, 2020 Primary Election Mars Hill early voting site. Chair Wallin and Member Tolley visited several potential early voting sites in the Mars Hill area. Member Smathers commented that he too has visited several sites within the area. Potential sites discussed were the Mars Hill Visitors Center, Mars Hill Public Library, Mars Hill Town Hall, Mars Hill College's new science building lobby, and Broyhill Chapel's reception hall.

**Moved, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (5,0) to approve 3 Madison County early voting sites during the March 3, 2020 primary election.**

**Board Member Reports:**

Chair Wallin commented that all election activities including the testing of new voting equipment were on schedule.

Member Smathers reported on the September 23, 2019 Buncombe County Special Training Event on paper balloting.

**Director's Report:**

The Director provided updates as follows:

- The September 30, 2019 budget report;
- The new voting equipment testing status; and
- The voting equipment preparation for the municipal elections.

**Moved, Seconded (DS, RL) and Carried (5,0) to approve the lists of prepared voting equipment.**

**New Business:**

The Director informed the Board that party chairs have submitted poll worker assistant recommendations for the 2019 Municipal Elections.

**Motion, Seconded (BB, DS) and Carried (5,0) to approve Robin Smathers (Mars Hill Precinct), Roger Johnson (Hot Springs Precinct), Jewell Olvera (South Marshall Precinct), Magen Caldwell-Woody (South Marshall Precinct), and Ellen Coomer (Mars Hill Precinct) as poll worker assistants for the 2019 Municipal Elections.**

**Moved, Seconded (DS, BB) and Carried (5,0) to schedule a special meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, November 15, 2019 to consider provisional ballots and any other municipal elections matters.**

**Announcements:**

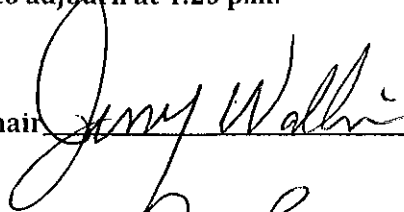
Special Session Board Meeting: Friday, November 15, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.

Canvass Meeting: Friday, November 15, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

**Adjournment:**

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

Chair



Secretary

