

**Madison County Board of Elections**  
**Special Session Meeting Minutes**  
**December 4, 2019**  
**3:00 p.m.**

The Madison County Board of Elections met on Wednesday, December 4, 2019 in the Board of Elections Office. In attendance: Jerry Wallin, Chair; Ray Lewis, Secretary; Sandra Tolley, Member; Brian Ball, Member; Dyatt Smathers, Member; Kathy Ray, Director; and 3 members of the public.

**Call to Order:**

Chair Wallin called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and stated the purpose for the meeting was to develop a one-stop plan for the 2020 Primary Election.

He began the discussion by addressing the concerns expressed regarding the Mars Hill Public Library. He commented that the major concern was the campaigning at the entrance to the parking lot. Member Smathers commented that Dr. Lawrence Smith has provided an area for Mars Hill Public Library poll workers to park their vehicles and suggested the Board designate an area for campaigning. Member Tolley added that board members have visited all other potential sites in the Mars Hill area and no other place was comparable to the library. **The Board designated the adjoining lot to the right of the main parking lot as the area for electioneering and instructed the Director to inform the Chief Judge to enforce compliance.**

Chair Wallin then addressed the Hot Spring Community Center site and informed the board that former Mayor Sidney Harrison has notified city officials to reserve the site for the 2020 Primary Election.

**Moved, Seconded (RL, BB) and Carried (5,0) to establish the county's three (3) one-stop voting sites for the 2020 Primary Election at Hot Springs Community Center, Mars Hill Public Library, and the Board of Elections.**

**Moved, Seconded (DS, BB) and Carried (5,0) to approve the one-stop voting plan as presented by the Director.**

**Moved, Seconded (RL, BB) and Carried (5,0) to continue the meeting and add Sandy Mush Precinct Building Improvement Plan, Voting Equipment, and the December 18, 2019 regular meeting under "Other Matters".**

**Other Matters:**

**Sandy Mush Precinct Building**

The Director presented a preliminary sketch to expand the Sandy Mush Building and informed the Board that the Maintenance Director is working on a cost estimate, contracting a mold inspection, and communicating with the Building Inspections Department.

Discussion ensued regarding the Sandy Mush Precinct Building.

Member Smathers opined that Sandy Mush Precinct Building must be expanded and improved or closed as a voting site. He suggested a timeline be included in the improvement plan for the expansion to be completed. Members Ball and Tolley emphasized the importance of encouraging voter participation and providing each community with an accessible voting site.

**Moved, Seconded (DS, ST) and Carried (5,0) to add "Citizens Comment" as the final item of the meeting.**

**Moved, Seconded (DS, BB) and Carried (5,0) for the Director to collaborate with the Maintenance Director to develop a contingency improvement plan for the Sandy Mush Precinct Building and submit it to the Board County Commissioners for inclusion in the County Building Improvement Plan.**

**Voting Equipment**

The Director presented the Request to Replace Voting Systems Form for the Board to complete regarding the successful testing of the AutoMark Ballot Marking Device during the November 5, 2019 Municipal Elections. She informed the Board that she will be attending the county commissioners meeting on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> to request approval to acquire 14 ADA Ballot Marking Devices for the 2020 Primary Election and any second primaries that may result.

Discussion ensued regarding the State Board of Elections November 26, 2019 email from North Carolina State Board of Elections Executive Director Karen Bell in which counties were instructed to not yet proceed to sign a contract for the new voting system (EVS 5.2.2.0) which includes the ExpressVote Ballot Marking Device. The Board and Director expressed concern regarding the delay and limited time remaining to prepare for the election.

**Moved, Seconded (BB, RL) and Carried (5,0) for the Director to procure a contract to lease 14 AutoMark Ballot Marking Devices for use during the 2020 Primary Election and any second primaries that may result.**

The Director will continue working with Elections System & Software, the State Board of Elections, and the County Commissioners to acquire and purchase EVS 5.2.2.0 which includes the ExpressVote Ballot Marking Devices for use in the 2020 General Election.

**Citizens Comments:**

Two citizens commented regarding the condition of the Sandy Mush Precinct Building, potential funding sources, and needed improvements.

A citizen inquired about the electioneering issues at the Mars Hill Public Library.

A citizen inquired about the actual property boundaries at the Sandy Mush Precinct Building and whether there was need to acquire additional property.

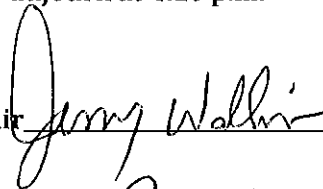
A citizen commented that many of the problems presented by attempting to have adequate voting sites could be solved through vote-by-mail balloting.

**Moved, Seconded (DS, BB) and Carried (5,0) to cancel the December 18, 2019 regular meeting.**

**Adjournment:**

**Motion, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (5,0) to adjourn at 4:20 p.m.**

Chair



Secretary

