

# Madison County Board of Elections

## Meeting Minutes

### August 12, 2020 Meeting

The Madison County Board of Elections met on Wednesday, August 12, 2020. In attendance: Jerry Wallin, Chair; Ray Lewis, Secretary; Dyatt Smathers, Member; Sandra Tolley, Member; Brian Ball, Member; Kathy Ray, Director; Jacob Ray, Deputy Director; and one member of the public.

#### **Call to Order:**

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

#### **Agenda:**

**Motion, Seconded (DS, BB) and Carried (5,0) to approve the agenda as amended to add to Other Matters: Petition Amendment Requests, County Commissioner Political Party Nominee, One Stop Planning, and Board of Elections Operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

#### **Members' Report:**

All Board members gave the August 4-5 virtual conference very high ratings and indicated the sessions provided helpful information and guidance for conducting a safe and successful election during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Member Tolley expressed appreciation to the Deputy Director for keeping the Board informed of important State Board of Elections communications.

#### **Minutes:**

**Motion, Seconded (RL, DS) and Carried (5,0) to approve the July 6, 2020 meetings minutes.**

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

The Director provided the June 30 and July 31, 2020 budget expenditure reports.

The Director reported that polling sites have been identified for all 12 precincts. Gymnasiums at the regular polling sites will be used where possible. Signage and onsite poll workers will direct voters to the voting enclosures. Voting sites will be widely published and communicated across the county.

#### **New Business:**

The Director provided the *Voting Site Setup and Sanitation Plan for COVID-19 Risks* and information related to the professional cleaning services agreement for all one stop and Election Day polling sites.

The Director informed the Board of the resignation of election judges Leigh Ann Thibodeau (R-Walnut Precinct) and Darlene Cutshall Shelton (R-Laurel Precinct).

**Moved, Seconded (BB, DS) and Carried (5,0) to approve the following election judges and precinct assignments: James Brown (R-Sandy Mush Precinct), Dennis Capps (R-Walnut Precinct), and Robbie Patterson (UNA-Laurel Precinct).**

**Moved, Seconded (JW, DS) and Carried (5,0) to add to the election calendar supplemental absentee meetings on Tuesday, November 10 and Thursday, November 12 at 9:00 a.m. and the canvass meeting on Friday, November 13 at 11:00 a.m.**

**Moved, Seconded (RL, BB) and Carried (5,0) to approve 11 temporary office assistants as needed through the conclusion of the November 3, 2020 general election: Karen Sue Vilcinskis (D), Theresa Banks (D), Dave Goforth (D), Dennis McMahan (R), Dennis Capps (R), Doris Capps (UNA), Dean Benfield (D), Gloria Sundquist (R), Wade Gahagan (UNA), Shirley Ponder (D), and Barbara Shelton (D).**

**Moved, Seconded (BB, DS) and Carried (5,0) to approve the Polling Sites and Board Office Disaster Relief Plan.**

The Director informed the Board that political party chairs have been provided information that will assist them with completing their poll worker assistant recommendations.

The Director provided a draft private building polling site agreement for the Sandy Mush Precinct polling site at Addison Farms Vineyard. She will work with the owners to finalize a collaborative agreement.

**Other Matters:**

Discussion ensued regarding COVID-19 risks to Board of Elections Office operations.

**Moved, Seconded (DS, BB) and Carried (5,0) to relocate the Board of Elections Office to the former Emergency Management Services Building located at 107 Elizabeth Lane, Marshall, NC 28753 as soon as possible, and to return to the Madison County Administrative Building located at 5707 US Hwy 25-70, Marshall, NC 28753 at the conclusion of the November 3, 2020 general election.**

Discussion ensued regarding COVID-19 risks at the Board of Elections and Mars Hill Public Library one stop sites.

**Moved, Seconded (DS, BB) and Carried (5,0) to amend the one stop plan to relocate the Mars Hill Public Library one stop site located at 25 Library Street, Mars Hill, NC 28754 to the Beech Glen Community Center Gymnasium located at 2936 Beech Glen Road, Mars Hill, NC**

**28754 and to relocate the Board of Elections one stop site located at 5707 US 25-70 Hwy, Marshall, NC 28753 to an in lieu of site located at Madison County Wellness Center Auxiliary Gymnasium located at 5734 US 25-70 Hwy, Marshall, NC 28753.**

The Director provided information regarding a recent posting of a Petition Signer List Report to a social media website. The posting prompted two voters to formally request the Board of Elections amend the petition to redact their names from any future petition reports related to this petition.

**Moved, Seconded (BB, DS) and Carried (5,0) to amend the petition to redact petition signer Jessica Honeycutt (Batch 1, Page 18, Line 3) from any future petition reports related to this petition.**

**Moved, Seconded (BB, RL) and Carried (5,0) to amend the petition to redact petition signer Claudia Annette Riddle (Batch 1, Page 8, Line 9) from any future petition reports related to this petition.**

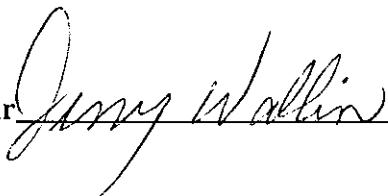
The Director provided information regarding the Madison County Democratic Party's Notice of Candidacy (Nominee) submission for the November 3 2020 general election. The nominee is the replacement candidate for the Madison County Commissioner contest.

**Public Comments:**

A member of the public asked if the Board of Elections has formed a Multi Partisan Assistance Team (MAT) for voters in assisted living facilities. She emphasized the importance of communicating to voters the changes in locations for the one stop sites and the Board of Elections office, and requested that a Department of Transportation street sign be placed at the entrance to Elizabeth Lane. Finally, she also asked for guidance and rules regarding the delivery of voted absentee mail in ballots and absentee ballot request forms.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion, Seconded (BB, DS) and Carried (5,0) to adjourn at 4:48 p.m.**

Chair 

Secretary 