

Madison County Board of Elections

Absentee Meeting Minutes

October 13, 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; Jacob Ray, Deputy Director; and one member of the public.

Call to Order:

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

Minutes:

Motion, Seconded (DS, BB) and Carried (5,0) to approve the October 6, 2020 meetings minutes.

Members' Reports:

Chair Wallin commented that office personnel and operations were smooth, and he had received positive feedback from voters regarding office procedures for absentee ballot returns. He remarked that both major political parties have submitted observer lists for one stop voting.

Member Smathers commented that his political party chair has appointed a couple of political party observers, and they have been properly trained in their roles as an observer. He commended the Chair for prioritizing the safety of the staff and cancelling the October 9th meeting. He reported that the Director and Superintendent of Schools have worked out a plan for the separation of voters and students at the Madison Early College High School Wellness Gymnasium early voting site and commended the spirit of cooperation that exists between the School System and Board of Elections.

Director's Report:

The Director provided the Board with a draft of poll worker assistants and requested that it be finalized and approved at the October 23rd board meeting. Notifications and training materials are going up on the website and being sent via email. She reported that the temporary office staff is exceeding expectations and doing an excellent job. She informed the Board that the State Board of Elections has approved the Cleanworks Service Agreement for the early voting and Election Day polling sites.

A discussion ensued regarding the need for a replacement judge at the North Marshall Precinct and poll worker assistants at the Ebbs Chapel Precinct. Member Smathers recommended that Robert Briggs, Jr. be placed on the list of poll worker assistants for the Ebbs Chapel Precinct.

Preparatory Steps to Count Ballots:

The voting equipment was reconciled with the chain of custody.

Absentee Ballots' Approval from the Cancelled October 6th Meeting:

Civilian (CIV) Ballots

1. Beech Glen Precinct: Motion, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (5,0) to approve 12 absentee ballots.
2. Ebbs Chapel Precinct: Motion, Seconded (ST, DS) and Carried (5,0) to approve 1 absentee ballot.
3. Grapevine Precinct: Motion, Seconded (DS, RL) and Carried (5,0) to approve 1 absentee ballot.
4. Hot Springs Precinct: Motion, Seconded (ST, DS) and Carried (5,0) to approve 3 absentee ballots.
5. Laurel Precinct: Motion, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (5,0) to approve 10 absentee ballots.
6. Mars Hill Precinct: Motion, Seconded (ST, JW) and Carried (5,0) to approve 29 absentee ballots.
7. North Marshall Precinct: Motion, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (5,0) to approve 13 absentee ballots.
8. Revere Rice Cove Precinct: No Ballots to approve.
9. Sandy Mush Precinct: Motion, Seconded (BB, RL) and Carried (5,0) to approve 6 absentee ballots.
10. South Marshall Precinct: Motion, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (5,0) to approve 8 absentee ballots.
11. Spring Creek Precinct: Motion, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (5,0) to approve 5 absentee ballots.
12. Walnut Precinct: Motion, Seconded (BB, RL) and Carried (5,0) to approve 3 absentee ballots.

The ending machine count was 889 counted ballots.

Absentee Ballots' Approval:

Overseas (OVR) Ballots

Motion, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (5,0) to approve 1 overseas ballot.

Civilian (CIV) Ballots

1. Beech Glen Precinct: Motion, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (5,0) to approve 11 absentee ballots.
2. Ebbs Chapel Precinct: Motion, Seconded (BB, DS) and Carried (5,0) to approve 3 absentee ballots.

3. Grapevine Precinct: Motion, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (5,0) to approve 4 absentee ballots.
4. Hot Springs Precinct: Motion, Seconded (ST, JW) and Carried (5,0) to approve 2 absentee ballots.
5. Laurel Precinct: Motion, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (5,0) to approve 4 absentee ballots.
6. Mars Hill Precinct: Motion, Seconded (BB, DS) and Carried (5,0) to approve 20 absentee ballots.
7. North Marshall Precinct: Motion, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (5,0) to approve 10 absentee ballots.
8. Revere Rice Cove Precinct: No ballots to approve.
9. Sandy Mush Precinct: Motion, Seconded (ST, DS) and Carried (5,0) to approve 4 absentee ballots.
10. Walnut Precinct: Motion, Seconded (DS, BB) and Carried (5,0) to approve 9 absentee ballots.

Motion, Seconded (BB, DS) and Carried (5,0) to go into closed session to duplicate 2 civilian ballots.

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

1. South Marshall Precinct: Motion, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (5,0) to approve 1 absentee ballot.
2. Spring Creek Precinct: Motion, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (5,0) to approve 1 absentee ballot.

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 959 ballots and sealed the machine for storage.

Other Matters:

The Deputy Director reported on 8 returned ballots that are on hold as per North Carolina State Board of Elections Numbered Memo 2020-28. The containers have deficiencies as follows: 3 with witness information fields that are incomplete, 2 with witness address fields missing, 1 with witness signature field missing, 1 with witness print name field missing, and 1 with witness print name and address fields missing.

The Director reported that a replacement judge is needed at the Laurel Precinct.

Motion, Seconded (DS, BB) and Carried (5,0) to approve Sandy Zimmerman (UNA-Laurel) as the replacement judge at Laurel Precinct.

Public Comment:

No comments were made.

Adjournment:

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

Chair *Jerry Wallin*

Secretary *Ray Lewis*