

Madison County Board of Elections
Meeting Minutes
Regular / Special Session – August 20, 2019

The Madison County Board of Elections met on Tuesday, August 20, 2019 in the Board of Elections Office, Room 16. In attendance: Jerry Wallin, Chair; Dyatt Smathers, Member (via phone); Sandra Tolley, Member; Brian Ball, Member; Kathy Ray, Director; Wade Gahagan, Deputy Director; and 3 members of the public.

Call to Order:

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

Agenda:

Motion, Seconded (BB, ST) and Carried (4,0) to approve the agenda.

Minutes:

Motion, Seconded (ST, BB) and Carried (4,0) to approve the July 17, 2019 meeting minutes.

Board Member Reports:

Chair Wallin commented that there has been no North Carolina State Board of Elections action on voting equipment certification.

Member Tolley complimented Deputy Director Gahagan's performance on the NCSBE certification program requirements and the NCSBE conference presentations. She added that the conference presentations were interesting and creative.

Member Ball commented that he learned a lot about election processes from the conference presentations and the importance of not rushing to judgment and making sure voters get every opportunity to cast their votes.

Member Smathers provided an update on Secretary Lewis's recovery and informed the Board that he has given the Director possession of several old voter registration books that he recovered from a local dumpsite. The Director informed the Board that she is working with North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to transfer the voter registration books to the state archives.

Director's Report:

The Director provided updates as follows:

- The July 31, 2019 budget report,
- The cargo trailer and completion of all DMV documents for the title and tag, and

- The County Commissioners approval to test the AutoMark Ballot Marker during the November Municipal Elections.

Old Business:

Discussion ensued regarding the use of Madison Early College as the North Marshall Precinct polling site. The point was made that students would be present on Election Day at that particular campus as the classes are coordinated with Asheville Buncombe Technical Institute.

Motion, Seconded (DS, BB) and Carried (4,0) to table approval of Madison Early College as the North Marshall Precinct polling site until the September 2019 meeting.

New Business:

The Board reviewed the Precinct Judge recommendations submitted by the Republican and Democratic Party Chairs.

Motion, Seconded (DS, ST) and Carried (4,0) to accept the recommendations of the Republican Party Chair and approve them for the two (2) year term appointment.

Motion, Seconded (JW, DS) and Carried (4,0) to amend the spreadsheet for the Sandy Mush and Hot Springs Precincts, accept the recommendations of the Democratic Party Chair, and approve them for the two (2) year term appointment.

The Board reviewed the North Carolina State Board of Elections voting site recommendations.

Motion, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (4,0) to maintain the current polling sites.

The Board reviewed the North Carolina State Board of Elections recommendations for precinct boundary changes.

Motion, Seconded (BB, DS) and Carried (4,0) to accept the State Board of Elections recommended precinct boundary change between Revere Rice Cove and Walnut Precincts.

Motion, Seconded (BB, DS) and Carried (4,0) to accept the State Board of Elections recommended precinct boundary change between Grapevine and North Marshall Precincts.

Motion, Seconded (BB, DS) and Carried (4,0) to accept the State Board of Elections recommended precinct boundary change between Ebbs Chapel and Grapevine Precincts.

The Board reviewed the recommended precinct voter transfers and polling sites changes for the upcoming 2019 Municipal Elections.

Motion, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (4,0) to pass a resolution that the voters of the Beech Glen Precinct that lie within the Town of Mars Hill Municipality be temporarily transferred, for the purpose of voting, to the Mars Hill Precinct for the 2019 Municipal Election.

Motion, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (4,0) to pass a resolution that the voters of the North Marshall Precinct that lie within the Town of Marshall Municipality be temporarily transferred, for the purpose of voting, to the South Marshall Precinct for the 2019 Municipal Election.

Motion, Seconded (JW, DS) and Carried (4,0) that the voters of the Hot Springs Precinct that lie within the Town of Hot Springs Municipality be transferred, for the purpose of voting, to the Hot Springs Welcome Center, 106 Bridge Street, Hot Springs, NC for the 2019 Municipal Election.

Motion, Seconded (JW, DS) and Carried (4,0) that the voters of the North Marshall Precinct that lie within the Town of Marshall Municipality be transferred, for the purpose of voting, to the Marshall Community Center, 145 Blannahassett Island Road, Marshall, NC for the 2019 Municipal Election.

Motion, Seconded (JW, DS) and Carried (4,0) and Carried (4,0) that the voters of the Mars Hill Precinct that lie within the Town of Mars Hill Municipality be transferred, for the purpose of voting, to the Mars Hill Public Library, 25 Library Street, Mars Hill NC for the 2019 Municipal Election.

Motion, Seconded (JW, DS) and Carried (4,0) that the voters of the Beech Glen Precinct that lie within the Town of Mars Hill Municipality be transferred, for the purpose of voting, to the Mars Hill Public Library, 25 Library Street, Mars Hill, NC for the 2019 Municipal Election.

Other Matters:

The Chair reported that the County Commissioners will be meeting December 2019 through January 2020 to study capital outlay projects that are needed in Madison County. The Board of Elections asked the Director to gather data and develop a proposal for the commissioners detailing the needs at the Sandy Mush Precinct Building and site. The proposal will be presented to the Commissioners prior to the meetings.

Citizens Comments:

A citizen commented on the work being done by the Carolina Public Press Organization, identified the three voting equipment vendors that have presented equipment for certification, and asked for confirmation that Madison County's voting equipment vendor is Election Systems and Software (ES&S). She also expressed gratitude for Madison County Board of Elections commitment to study and recommend needed improvements for the Sandy Mush precinct building and site and offered her assistance.

A citizen complimented this week's newspaper article regarding the Board of Elections accomplishments.

Adjournment:

Moved, Seconded (JW, ST) and Carried (4,0) to adjourn.

Minutes Approved: _____

Chair Jerry Wallin

Secretary Ray Lewis