

Madison County Board of Elections

Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2018

The Madison County Board of Elections met on Wednesday, August 8, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. in the Board of Elections Conference Room. In attendance: Dyatt Smathers, Chair; Sandra Tolley, Vice Chair; Jerry Wallin, Member; Kathy Ray, Director; Wade Gahagan, Deputy Director; and two (2) members of the public. Ray Lewis, Secretary was absent from the meeting due to a prior commitment.

Call to Order

Chair Smathers called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Agenda

Member Wallin made a motion: *To approve the agenda as presented and amended to add items to the Director's Report and New Business.* Vice Chair Tolley seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Tolley made a motion: *To approve the July 9, 2018 meeting minutes as presented.* Member Wallin seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Chair's and Members' Reports

Chair Smathers reported on the State Board of Elections Conference activities. He remarked about the conference's record attendance, emphasis on cybersecurity, and special recognition given Deputy Director Gahagan for completing the National Elections Center (CERA) Program.

Member Wallin commented that the State Board Conference was informative and decisions about voting equipment certification are still pending. He also commented that some speakers at the conference indicated that voter fraud and hacking were not major issues in North Carolina's elections.

Vice Chair Tolley commented that the State Board trainers were highly qualified and provided a lot of information to absorb. She was particularly impressed with the training on consensus building.

Director's Report

The Director provided the July 31, 2018 budget report and informed the board that an amendment has been submitted to move funds from the capital equipment line item to the temporary staff and contracted services line items.

The Director provided Board members with a calendar template for the months of August through December, a working draft of early voting staff assignments, and a June 27, 2018 records disposal notification. She informed Board members that Sandy Mush Precinct Democratic Judge Dorothy Lee will resume her duties and that Walnut Precinct Republican Judge Leigh Ann Thibodeau needs a replacement during the November 6, 2018 election.

The Director commented on activities that are forthcoming regarding cybersecurity and potential risks to elections. Chair Smathers requested that the Director invite the IT staff to the September board meeting.

New Business

Vice Chair Tolley made a motion: *To approve absentee meetings at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays, October 16, 23, and 30; at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 5; at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 6; at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 15; and at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, November 16 (canvass meeting).* Member Wallin seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Chair Smathers made a motion: **To move the regularly scheduled Wednesday, September 12 board meeting to Wednesday, September 19 at 3:00 p.m.** Vice Chair Tolley seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Member Wallin made a motion: *To approve a resolution to begin the absentee vote count at 2:00 p.m. on Election Day.* Vice Chair Tolley seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chair Smathers made a motion: *To move the Board of Elections observance of the Veterans Day Holiday from Monday, November 12 to Wednesday, November 21.* Member Wallin seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Others Matters

Chair Smathers informed the Board that the County Commissioners' Sales and Use Tax Resolution for a quarter cent referendum has been forwarded to the North Carolina State Board of Elections for placement on the November 6, 2018 General Election ballot.

New Business

Chair Smathers made a motion: *To move the regularly scheduled Wednesday, October 10 meeting to coincide with the Tuesday, October 16 absentee meeting.* Member Wallin seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Chair Smathers made a motion: *To move the regularly scheduled Wednesday, November 14 meeting to coincide with the Thursday, November 15 absentee meeting.* Member Wallin seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Citizens Comments

A citizen commented about the importance of sales taxes in our society. She also requested to see any previous incident reports regarding the Sandy Mush Precinct.

A citizen commented on election issues in another state and county.

Announcements

Next Board Meeting: September 19, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Member Wallin made a motion: *To adjourn the meeting.* Vice Chair Tolley seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Minutes Approved 9-19-18

Kathy Ray
Kathy Ray, Director

Ray Lewis
Ray Lewis, Secretary

Dyatt Smathers
Dyatt Smathers, Chair