

Madison County Board of Elections

Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2020

The Madison County Board of Elections met on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 in the Board of Elections Office, Room 16. In attendance: Jerry Wallin, Chair; Ray Lewis, Secretary; Dyatt Smathers, Member; 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 4:00 p.m.

Agenda:

Motion, Seconded (DS, RL) and Carried (5,0) to approve the amended agenda to add Precinct Voting Assignments to Other Matters.

Minutes:

Motion, Seconded (ST, DS) and Carried (5,0) to approve the January 15 and February 1, 2020 meeting minutes.

Board Member Reports:

Chair Wallin commented that early voting is running smoothly.

Member Smathers commented that Mars Hill Public Library parking during early voting is greatly improved thanks to Dr. Lawrence Smith allowing early voting staff to use the lot on his property. He also commented that "Vote Here Today" signs that have been placed along the highway by a political organization have created some confusion about early voting hours on weekends. He has requested the signs be removed on days that early voting is not open.

Chair Wallin and Member Tolley reported that voters seem satisfied with the paper balloting system. Some concern has been expressed regarding the two-sided ballot.

Member Smathers reported that he has visited the Hot Springs Community Center early voting site. A discussion ensued regarding the reported smell of gas or gas burnoff. The Town of Hot Springs is maintaining the building and will place a carbon monoxide detector in the early voting enclosure. The Director visited the site and extended the offer to relocate early voting staff members that are adversely affected by the gas odor emitted from the wall heater.

Director's Report:

The Director reported on the following:

- The January 2020 revenue and expenditure report;
- The Hot Springs Community Center Early Voting Site and Sandy Mush and South Marshall Precincts;
- The commissioners' meeting on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 to request additional funds for voting equipment;
- The voting equipment transport plan;
- The lead early voting officials request for travel pay reimbursement;
- The State Board of Elections board member contact information;
- The use of the AutoMark Ballot Marker by an early voter at Mars Hill Public Library; and
- The policy regarding the OVRD/SOSA laptops and restrictions regarding the use of the open USB ports.

A discussion ensued regarding the placement of signage at the North Marshall Precinct directing voters to Madison Early College High School.

New Business:

The Director presented the poll worker assistants recommendations (updated version) as submitted by the two major political party chairs.

Moved, Seconded (DS, ST) and Carried (5,0) to approve the list of poll worker assistants (Addendum 1).

Other Matters:

A discussion ensued regarding the precinct/county voting assignment of Yancey County Voter Frances Browne.

Citizens Comments:

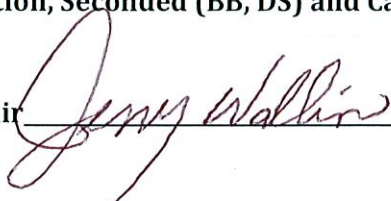
A citizen expressed appreciation for the Sandy Mush Precinct Building improvements and emphasized the continuing need for adequate space for the voting enclosure. She inquired about the DS200 ballot imager queries for under voted and over voted contests.

A citizen commented that a second primary seemed almost certain given the number of candidates for specific contests on the ballots.

Adjournment:

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

Chair



Secretary

