

Madison County Board of Elections

Meeting Minutes – Regular Session

November 9, 2021

The Madison County Board of Elections held their regular scheduled meeting on Tuesday, November 9th, 2021 at Suite E, Room 16, 5707 US 25-70 Hwy, Marshall, 28753. In attendance: Jerry Wallin, Chair; Ray Lewis, Secretary; Dyatt Smathers, Member; Brian Ball, Member; Jacob Ray, Director; and Elizabeth Madorin, Deputy Director.

Call to Order:

Chair Wallin called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Minutes:

Member Smathers requested amendments be made to the October's Meeting Minutes.

Motion with a second (BB, DS) and motion carried (4,0) to approve the October 2021 meeting minutes with the amendments made.

Agenda:

Member Smathers requested to add a discussion on One-Stop voting to new business.

Director Ray requested to change November 11, 2021 holiday to November 24, 2021 to new business.

Motion with a second (DS, BB) and motion carried (4,0) to approve the amendments to the agenda.

Members' Report:

Member Smathers expressed concern for the Security & Support Technician position not being funded by the State. He requested that the Director write a formal letter thanking Security & Support Technician John Noce for his assistance with the 2021 municipal election.

Member Lewis emphasized the importance of John's role with the new staff members. Member Lewis also added that the experience of the smaller Municipal Election will help the staff to deal with the 2022 election. He visited polling places and observed that things were running smoothly.

Member Ball commented that he felt good about how the elections went. The polls were adequately staffed and the elections were held in a professional manner. He stopped by the Mars Hill polling site and commented that it was being run very well. He was pleased with the efforts on election night. Director and Deputy Director did well with new systems

Chair Wallin would like a copy of the letter that will be sent to John to also be sent to all board members. He wanted to reinforce the fact of the importance of the elections and that they are done right.

Director's Report:

The filing period is December 6th through December 17th for the 2022 election.

There is work to be done on Geocode audits.

It was concluded that there would be email updates during the filing period to keep everyone updated.

New Business

Member Smathers met with the superintendent of schools about the availability of a one-stop polling site at the wellness center at the school. The superintendent is agreeable to that but has two requests. One, have a designated electioneering area that the supporters would need to stay within that area. The board has the authority under statute 163-166.4 to establish a zone for campaigners. Two, the superintendent would like for the site to keep a daily log of the electioneers.

Both Chair Wallin and Member Ball agreed that a sign-in sheet should be required. Director Ray will inquire with the legal department of the North Carolina State Board to see if this is something that can be done.

Member Smathers advised that the one-stop plan for the 2022 primary for all three sites needs to be decided on unanimously by all board members.

Member Smathers expressed concern about the use of the community center in Hot Springs for the 2022 one stop use.

Director Ray voiced that he had spoken with the poll workers that work Hot Springs about changing locations to the Lion's Club upon the suggestion of the Mayor of Hot Springs Abigail Norton. Poll workers said that it would be difficult there and might be better to work with the town to block off some parking that was specifically designated to voting at the community center.

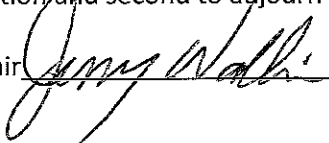
Member Smathers requested that it be considered that the Express Votes be used during the early voting. Member Ball inquired about the pros and cons of the use the machines. Director Ray mentioned that there are fewer chances for errors and is easier for the poll workers.

Member Smathers inquired about coverage for milage for pick up and drop off of materials for one stop.

Director Ray requested that the November 11, 2021 holiday be moved to November 24, 2021. Motion with a second (DS, RL) and motion carried (4,0) to approve the change of the time off for holidays for the staff.

Member Ball requested that the Director conduct cost analysis of using the ExpressVote vs Paper Balloting for the primary voting method of One-Stop sites. Member Ball inquired about the loss of room 26 of the Madison County Administrative Building and how that will effect conducting election procedures going forward.

Motion and second to adjourn (BB, DS) and motion carried (4,0) to adjourn.

Chair  Secretary 