

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
REGULAR / SPECIAL SESSION
Board of Elections Conference Room
Wednesday, September 11, 2013
4:30 P.M.**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Andy Gibson called the meeting of the Madison County Board of Elections to order at 4:30 P.M. at the Board of Elections Office Conference Room. Board and staff members in attendance were Andy Gibson, Chairman; Dyatt Smathers, Secretary; Jerry Wallin, Member; and Kathy Ray, Director.

AGENDA

Chairman Gibson requested adding "Public Comment" to the agenda to field questions or input from the public.

Moved, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (3,0) to set the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (3,0) to approve meeting minutes from the August 20, 2013 regular/special meeting.

Minutes will be posted on the website upon approval of the Board of Elections.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Gibson informed us that there is some discussion among the public regarding House Bill 589 and how it is going to affect voting.

MEMBERS' REPORT

Secretary Smathers indicated that comments from the public continue to be positive regarding the use of plain paper ballots in uncontested municipal elections to save the towns and county funds. Chairman Gibson added that the Board is combining information for all the town municipal elections into single public legal notices to cut costs.

Member Wallin reported that the State Board Conference was very informative.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Handbook for New County Board of Election Members and the document The Board of Elections and the Open Meetings Act were given to BOE members that were unable to attend the State Board of Elections Conference.

The budget report reflected expenditures and revenues through August 31st.

The Town of Marshall Mayor Candidate Tim Green submitted his withdrawal from the contest.

The Director's shared her "Unofficial" notes from the August State Board of Elections Conference.

The iVotronic machines will be decertified as of January 2018. The Director has contacted the current vendor dba Printelect to assist with constructing a plan and machine replacement estimate for the county commissioners. Chairman Gibson suggested obtaining plans and cost estimates from other vendors as well.

The State Board of Elections has approved all resolutions to move polling places for the municipal elections. The Town of Hot Springs will vote at Hot Springs Community Center, the Town of Mars Hill will vote at the Fire Department Annex, and the Town of Marshall will vote at the Marshall Community Center – Room B. Additionally, the State Board approved request for the four (4) Beech Glen Precinct voters who qualify to vote in the Town of Mars Hill to be transferred temporarily to the Mars Hill Precinct to protect voter secrecy.

September is Voter Registration Awareness Month. The Board of Elections will partner with the county high schools and Mars Hill College to conduct voter registration drives before the end of this month. All partnering schools have been contacted with information regarding the drive. This year's drive will be impacted by the new legislation that repeals voter pre-registrations effective September 1, 2013.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved, Seconded (DS, AG) and Carried (3,0) to employ Jacob Ray to assist with Logic & Accuracy Testing of the voting equipment for the municipal elections.

Secretary Smathers volunteered to be the second member of the team to conduct the testing.

Moved, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (3,0) to employ the polling place precinct judges (South Marshall Precinct, Hot Springs Precinct, and Mars Hill Precinct) to conduct the municipal elections in their respective precincts of appointment and to employ Norris Gentry as a poll worker assistant for the Town of Marshall Municipal Election.

No precinct official will say "NO" to requests to use a restroom that's pathway goes through the buffer zone or the voting place and/or voting enclosure at polling places. Precinct officials will supervise restroom use. Persons should promptly leave the area once they've finished using the restroom, not lingering and not partaking in an electioneering, which is not allowed in the buffer zone.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Precinct Officials Orientation Training will be at the Cooperative Extension Auditorium on September 23, 2013 from 5:30-7:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Clarification was requested regarding the DRAFT rules that were mentioned in the Director's report on "Unofficial" notes for the SBOE Conference. The DRAFT rules is a copy of the initial proposed rules regarding county level Multipartisan Assistance Teams of designated persons who can assist patients and residents of hospitals, clinics, nursing homes or rest homes with the process of requesting and casting a mail-in absentee ballot.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (3,0) to adjourn at 5:45 P.M.