

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
REGULAR SESSION  
Board of Elections Conference Room  
Wednesday, April 9, 2014  
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; Shirley Ponder, Deputy Director; and Kathy Ray, Director.

AGENDA

**Moved, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (3,0) to set the agenda and add a closed session to discuss early voting staff.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Moved, Seconded (JW, DS) and Carried (3,0) to approve as presented the regular meeting minutes from the March 12, 2014 meeting.**

**Moved, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (3,0) to approve as presented the meeting minutes from the March 24, 2014 special session.**

**Moved, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (3,0) to approve as presented the meeting minutes from the March 27, 2014 special session.**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Gibson indicated that he had received favorable feedback regarding the candidacy challenge.

MEMBERS' REPORT

Secretary Smathers remarked that he had received recurring phone calls asking "what if..." and "what happens now..." in regard to the candidacy hearing. His best answer has been that "...it's in the State Board of Election's hands and we don't know."

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The March 31, 2014 Budget Revenue and Expenditure Report was presented for review. The Director will check on why the Board of Elections is paying both French Broad Electric and Charter for services.

The Director reported on her presentation to the county commissioners at which she requested an annual set aside of \$49,000 to replace DRE voting equipment by the required 2018 deadline. Commissioners and the County Finance Officer indicated they would work with the Board of Elections to ensure that adequate funds were available for the required purchase.

Board members were presented with a packet of informational presentations provided at the State Board of Elections March 24 and 25, 2014 Conference. The Director reminded Board members that they must be present for the May 13, 2014 CANVASS meeting.

**Moved, Seconded (DS, AG) and Carried (2,0) that the Board of Elections no longer place return postage with germane mailings to voters.** JW opposed the motion and indicated the action was not voter friendly.

The Director informed the Board that the county manager will be contacting all county directors soon to begin budget proposal development for the upcoming fiscal year. The Board needs to prepare a document for presentation to the county commissioners regarding the requirement to purchase new voting equipment by January 2018. The document needs to include a projected cost of purchasing new voting equipment and the need to set aside capital funds each year beginning in 2014-2015 so the county can have adequate funds for the purchase in the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The Director will prepare a proposal that will provide commissioners with a ballpark figure for the purchase of new voting equipment. The proposal will be based upon estimated figures for machines that are comparable in price and capacity to our current M100 machines or the updated DS200 machines to give us an idea of the number of machines the Board of Elections will need and the projected cost for purchase. The purchase proposal document for generic machines (not specific brands) will be presented to the Board of Elections at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

#### NEW BUSINESS

**Moved, Seconded (JW, DS) and Carried (3,0) to approve Election Day poll worker assistants as presented.**

**Moved, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (3,0) to accept the resignation of Gregory Lloyd as the Democratic Judge at Ebbs Chapel Precinct.**

**Moved, Seconded (JW, DS) and Carried (3,0) to approve Rebecca Hamlin as the Democratic Judge at Ebbs Chapel Precinct.**

The Director presented the budget proposal for the 2014-2014 fiscal year. Chairman Gibson requested that an additional 3 percent increase in salary be built into the budget for the Deputy Director's salary.

**Moved, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (3,0) to go into a closed session meeting to discuss early voting personnel.**

**Moved, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (3,0) to return to regular session.**

**Moved, Seconded (DS, JW) to approve early voting staff as presented.**

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Discussion ensued regarding the semantics of using the terms "early voting" and "one-stop absentee" in the elections' communications with the public. Concern was expressed that the public may not understand what "one-stop absentee" really means.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

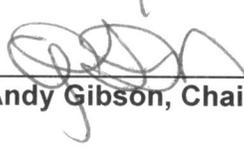
**Next Regular Board of Elections Meeting: Wednesday, May 14, 2014**

#### \DJOURNMENT

Moved, Seconded (DS, AG) and Carried (3,0) to adjourn at 6:10 P.M.

  
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Kathy Ray, Director

  
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Dyatt Smathers, Secretary

  
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Andy Gibson, Chairman