

MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
REGULAR SESSION
Board of Elections Conference Room
May 14, 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 4:35 p.m. In attendance were Chairman Andy Gibson; Secretary Dyatt Smathers; Member Jerry Wallin; Deputy Director, Shirley Ponder; and Director Kathy Ray.

SETTING OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (3,0) to approve the meeting minutes as presented for the April 9 Regular Session, April 29 Absentee Session, May 12 Absentee Session, and the May 13 Canvass Session.

Moved, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (3,0) to approve the May 6 Absentee Session minutes as presented and amended.

Moved, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (3,0) to approve the April 15 Special/Absentee Session minutes as presented and amended.

Moved, Seconded (AG, DS) and Carried (3,0) to amend the April 22 Absentee Session minutes.

Moved, Seconded (JW, DS) and Carried (3,0) to approve the April 22 Absentee Session minutes as presented and amended.

Moved, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (3,0) to approve the April 9 Closed Session minutes as presented.

Director Ray informed the Board that the meeting minutes for the May 5 Absentee Session will be presented for approval at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

No Report

MEMBERS' REPORTS

Secretary Smathers reported that he had received a phone call from a poll worker assistant inquiring about the denial of her provisional vote. The Director and Deputy Director will place more emphasis in the next trainings that poll workers must vote early if working out of their assigned precinct on Election Day.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Board of Elections will end the fiscal year with excess funds since there is no second primary election. Director Ray indicated the excess funds will be reverted to the county or used to purchase On Site Voter Registration Database (OVRD) laptop computers and printers for precincts to use on Election Day.

The SBOE is requiring counties to implement OVRD (electronic poll books) in all precincts by the 2016 election year. Director Ray indicated that using OVRD on Election Day would greatly reduce both poll worker and voter errors and greatly increase efficiency and effectiveness with processing precinct transfers, ensuring the right voter is being processed, ensuring the correct ballot style and precinct are being assigned, and with updating voter information.

Secretary Smathers added that the purchase and use of the OVRD electronic poll book will not be affected by the purchase of new voting machines.

Discussion ensued regarding the attorney fees invoice for the Candidacy Challenge.

Director Ray reported that May 22 is the unofficial date for the State Board of Election's hearing regarding the removal petition of Chairman Gibson and Member Wallin.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion ensued regarding budget amendments in salary line items for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. The Board is asking to maintain salaries for the Director and Board members commensurate with the increases approved by the county commissioners in January of the current fiscal year and to approve a three (3) percent increase in salary for the Deputy Director. The increase in salary for the Director and Board members are set to expire June 30, 2014.

The Director reported that she added to Form F the cost for the purchase of the new voting machines that must be purchased by 2018.

Moved, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (3,0) to approve the amended budget as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

Certificates of Election will be issued to Theresa K. Banks, Chairman, Board of Education; Lori Hagan Massey, School Board, District 2; and Barbara E. Wyatt, School Board, District 1.

Certificates of Nomination will be issued to Democratic Party nominees James Ernest Harwood, Sheriff; Patricia R. Franklin, County Commissioner; Norris Gentry, County Commissioner; and Clayton Rice, County Commissioner.

OTHER MATTERS

Moved, Seconded (JW, DS) and Carried (3,0) to hire Fay Ball as a full time employee through June 30, 2014 with a salary commensurate with the current Deputy Director.

Moved, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (3,0) to amend the 2014-2015 budget proposal to request an additional full time employee to assist the Director and with the salary commensurate with the current Deputy Director.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

The Director explained that a special / absentee meeting means the Board is adding special meeting items for discussion and/or action to a regularly scheduled absentee meeting agenda.

Citizens continue to express that the use of "one-stop voting" is confusing language that the State Board should consider changing.

An issue of concern was raised regarding the possible elimination of some early voting sites due to low voter participation. The point was made that in small counties such as Madison, the votes cast at the sites with low participation are very important to determining the outcome of election contests.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next regular meeting: June 11, 2014 at 4:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved, Seconded (DS, AG) and Carried (3,0) to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.



Chairman



Secretary



Director