

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
REGULAR SESSION**

Board of Elections Conference Room

Wednesday, July 2, 2014

3:00 P.M.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Smathers called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M. Board and staff members in attendance were Dyatt Smathers, Chairman; Ray Lewis, Secretary; Jerry Wallin, Member; and Kathy Ray, Director.

AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to approve the June 11, 2014 meeting minutes as presented.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Smathers gave an update on the medical status of Fay Ball's son.

The Chairman announced the special Board of Elections meeting scheduled for July 17th at 10:00 a.m. State Board of Elections General Counsel Don Wright will visit to hammer out the last vestiges of allegations that were made during the May Primary.

He also announced that the last meeting of the Voting Equipment Ad Hoc Committee had 100 percent attendance. The next meeting of the Voting Equipment Ad Hoc Committee is scheduled for Monday, July 14th at 6:30 p.m. The State Board of Elections will participate in the meeting via phone conference.

MEMBERS' REPORT

Jerry Wallin reported that some voters are wondering if the address on their drivers' licenses must correspond with the Board of Elections database address to be able to vote. He requested a copy of the Voter Check-In and Photo ID documents that were distributed by election officials and workers at the polls during the Primary Election. Mr. Wallin indicated that more voter education needs to be done regarding the address on the driver's license and the address in the SEIMS database.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The budget report for June 30, 2014 was unavailable and will be presented during the August 13th meeting.

The approved budget for the 2014-2015 budget year was presented. Salaries for office staff reflect a 2 percent increase based upon the 2013-2014 approved salaries. Board member compensation remains at \$200.00 per month per Board member. The approved budget does not include funding for the requested position of full time permanent assistant to the director.

The Commissioners appropriated adequate funds to purchase the laptops and printers necessary to implement OVRD (On Site Voter Registration Database) across the precincts during the upcoming General Election in

November. The equipment will be ordered right away so elections staff can be timely trained on the setup and use of the software at the precincts.

Additional storage space is needed, and the Director is considering adequate space that may be available within the Board of Elections Office for the additional equipment and used and unused official ballots in the event new machines are purchased.

The Haywood County presentation was to allow directors to see cutting edge voting equipment. Democracy Live presented its ADA ballot marking device. The company partners with Microsoft and the device is cloud based. Voters use the software via a ballot delivery portal on the internet, mark their ballots, and print it from their home computer. The company currently does not have a tabulation system; however, they are developing one. The presenter indicated that this technology could move counties away from proprietary partnerships with voting equipment vendors and result in substantial cost savings to counties.

The Democracy Live presenter indicated that North Carolina State Board of Elections does want to incorporate new technologies, new equipment, and new vendors. He elaborated that the State is opening up the certification process so counties have more options. Director Ray pointed out that the Board should take into consideration that the comments were those of the company representative.

Director Ray learned at the Director's quarterly meeting that Gaston County is purchasing the DS200s for November 2015 implementation. Director Ray shared that the slower pace for implementation will allow the staff more time to become familiar with the machine and for training, and that full implementation will be during the municipal election cycle rather than a local, state, and federal election cycle.

At the last national elections conference, attendees that included NC directors were shown election equipment by various vendors from across the country. The directors were told by at least one vendor that its company has approached North Carolina State Board of Elections and shown them its voting equipment which has already received national certification. The vendor representative expressed to the directors that they do wish to seek NC state certification.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of the November 4, 2014 General Election One-Stop Plan was tabled at the June 11th meeting. The Director again presented the One-Stop Planning document for consideration and approval. Discussion continued regarding the need for five (5) sites and the SBOE cumulative hour requirement based upon the data collected regarding voter participation at each of the sites during the Primary Election.

At the Director's request, Chairman Smathers recessed the meeting at 3:36 p.m. and called the meeting back to order at 3:40 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding options for the one-stop plan. The Board reviewed and considered State Board requirements and county data including cost per site, participation rates, hours of operation, and location of sites.

Moved (RL) to request a reduction in hours for early voting from the State Board of Elections.

Mr. Lewis withdrew his motion upon clarification that the motion was not specific to a reduction in hours for the Marshall One-Stop site.

Moved, Seconded (JW, RL) and Carried (3,0) to accept the one-stop plan as presented by the Director.

OTHER MATTERS

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to pass a resolution to create the two additional one-stop sites for the General Election at the Mars Hill Town Hall and the Marshall Community Center.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was provided complimenting the elections staff for being fair and courteous with the voters at the polls during the Primary Election.

Chairman Smathers commented that there were few hiccups during the Primary Election and that the elections staff did a good job carrying out their duties.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, August 13, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.

Voting Equipment Ad Hoc Committee Meeting: Monday, July 14, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

Special Called Meeting: Thursday, July 17, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

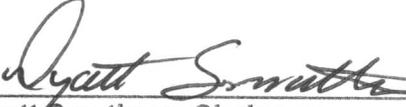
Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to adjourn at 4:11 P.M.



Kathy Ray, Director



Ray Lewis, Secretary



Dyatt Smathers, Chairman