

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
REGULAR SESSION
Board of Elections Conference Room
Wednesday, August 13, 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; Shirley Ponder, Deputy Director, and Kathy Ray, Director.

AGENDA

DS moved to accept the agenda as amended by the Director.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to approve the July 2, 2014 meeting minutes as presented.

Moved, Seconded (JW, RL) and Carried (3,0) to approve the July 17, 2014 meeting minutes as presented.

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to approve the July 21, 2014 meeting minutes as amended.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

All Board of Elections members and office staff attended the State Board of Elections Conference in Cary, NC.

Director Ray has met the requirements to take the State Board of Elections' assessment to become a Certified Elections Administrator.

Director Ray and Chairman Smathers attended August 12th Board of Commissioners meeting and presented the Board of Elections' Resolution to test the DS200 at the Board of Elections One-Stop Site. The Board of Commissioners voted unanimously for the Board of Elections to proceed with the test. Printelect will train the election's office staff to train the poll workers in the use of the new voting system.

MEMBERS' REPORT

Secretary Lewis commented that the SBOE Conference and sessions were very informative.

^{Member}
~~Chairman~~ Wallin commented that the SBOE did a good job and the sessions were very interesting. He referenced SB 403 as a document of interest regarding changes in election laws.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Additional presentations from the SBOE Conference were given to Board members.

The June 30, 2014 final amended budget report was presented. The Board of Elections came in under budget by approximately \$40K. The attorney fee for the candidacy challenge was included in the final amended budget under the professional services legal line item. Director Ray pointed out that the budget included approximately \$20K to fund a potential second primary. The excess funds were reverted back to the county.

The 2014-2015 budget was presented. The Director indicated that the budget includes sufficient funding to cover the costs of the DS200 test at the BOE one-stop site, funds to purchase laptop computers and printers for electronic poll books at the precincts on Election Day, and the costs associated with the General Election. The budget also includes the adjustment in the Director's salary, the 2 percent increase in the Deputy Director's salary, and the reduction in the Board of Elections members' compensation.

The Director presented the new OVRD/SOSA laptop computers and commented about the improvements that will occur related to their use at all precincts.

The Board of Elections shredded over 1,200 pounds of voter registration documents. American Security Shredding came to the Board of Elections and shredded the documents on-site.

The Director presented a Campaign Finance Report for all candidates with open committees. To date, the audits have resulted in reporting to the SBOE one late report and two over \$50 cash contribution violations.

The SBOE approved the Madison County One-Stop Plan.

The Director presented the Franklin Voting Booth as an option for the BOE one-stop DS200 testing site. The booth is circular, collapsible, mobile, durable and will accommodate four voters at one-time. Each cubicle can be adapted for ADA voters. It is a much higher quality booth than the classic booths presented at the Ad Hoc Committee meeting. The Board agreed to purchase one of the Franklin booths for use at the test site.

The Board of Commissioners approved the testing of the voting system. The county attorney advised the Director to contact the company to let them know that Madison County Commissioners will not sign a contract until there has been successful testing of the new voting system, and the Board of Elections recommends the purchase of the equipment to the commissioners. During the testing period, the company and county attorneys will negotiate a contract for the purchase of the voting equipment conditional upon a successful test, the recommendation of the Board of Elections to proceed with the purchase of the equipment, and the approval of the county commissioners. The county attorney also indicated that a contract likely will not be finalized by the commissioners until January 2015.

The Director indicated that the previous comparable election voter totals (General 2010) will be used to determine the number of paper ballots to be purchased. An estimated 2000 paper ballots will need to be purchased for the DS200 one-stop site.

NEW BUSINESS

A replacement Republican Judge search is underway for the Mars Hill Precinct. Gordon Randolph submitted an email that he needs a replacement for the November election only. The Republican Party Chair has been notified and is conducting the search.

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to approve the June 23rd and July 14th Ad Hoc Committee meeting minutes.

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to approve a Resolution to Count Absentee Ballots at 2:00 p.m. on Election Day.

The Director presented the Notice of General Election that will be posted and noticed in the local newspaper. Member Wallin recommended moving the proposed absentee meeting from November 11th to November 12th at 3:00 p.m. and conduct the absentee approvals prior to the beginning of the Board's regularly scheduled meeting. The proposed absentee meeting date was changed to November 12th.

Board of Elections activities on Veteran's Day was discussed. Due to Board of Elections' activities that must be complete by CANVASS Day, the Board of Elections must remain open on Veteran's Day.

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to close the Board of Elections Office on Monday, December 1, 2014 and take that reciprocity day for Veteran's Day Holiday.

The Director presented the Election Calendar and schedules for September, October, and November. Logic & Accuracy testing of the voting equipment and the training sessions for precinct officials and poll worker assistants are reflected in the calendar.

The Director presented the lists of poll worker assistants, one-stop staff, MAT team members, and Logic & Accuracy Testing team members for approval.

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to accept the lists of staff that the director has presented provided the Democratic Party Chair grants his approval for Jean Larson to work one-stop at the BOE site.

The Director presented the Public Notice to Approve, Open, and Read Mail-In Absentee Ballots.

OTHER MATTERS

Chairman Smathers announced the security camera has been installed inside Room 26, adding additional security for early voting machines and media. The Madison County IT staff assisted the Board of Elections with the installation.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

A citizen complimented the Board of Elections staff.

The SBOE social media guidance was discussed. Election's staff and Board members should not favor or oppose any candidate for election on social media sites that are intended for public viewing.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved, Seconded (DS, RL) and Carried (3,0) to adjourn at 4:50 P.M.

Kathy M. Ray

Kathy Ray, Director

Ray Lewis

Ray Lewis, Secretary

Dyatt Smathers

Dyatt Smathers, Chairman