

MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
REGULAR SESSION
Board of Elections Conference Room
May 13, 2015
3:00 AM

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Smathers called the meeting of the Madison County Board of Elections to order at 3:00 p.m. at the Board of Elections Conference Room. In attendance were Dyatt Smathers, Chairman; Ray Lewis, Secretary; Jerry Wallin, Member; Wade Gahagan, Elections Specialist; and Kathy Ray, Director.

AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to approve the regular and closed minute sessions for the April 9, 2015 meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Smathers welcomed Elections Specialist Wade Gahagan to the staff and reported that the Director had been very complimentary of his work.

There is a lot of interest in the Governor's request for a statewide bond referendum.

Good work is being done to clear up the municipal boundaries.

The Board is still waiting on the ExpressVote Ballot marker SBOE certification status.

Chairman Smathers commented that former Deputy Director Shirley Ponder is missed.

MEMBERS' REPORTS

Member Wallin welcomed Mr. Gahagan as the Elections Specialist, and Secretary Lewis complimented Mr. Gahagan's skills set.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

County commissioners are beginning to scrutinize current budgets for existing funds that can be reverted. The Director has communicated with the Finance Officer regarding the requested funds from specific line items. The Director requested that enough funds remain in the .1260 salaries:temp line item to hire temporary staff to cover the office in the event both office staff must be absent from the office.

Some county boards of elections directors indicate that a statewide November bond referendum will likely happen.

The Board of Elections is working directly with the municipal town staffs to update the town voter lists and shape files. All municipalities are working cooperatively and timely with the Board of Elections to have accurate and updated voter lists and shape files for the July municipal filing period and November elections.

The Board staff's progress in addressing the Precinct Verification Project issues surrounding voter precinct assignments and addresses has been recognized by other counties, and it has been asked to make a presentation at an upcoming NCADE District meeting.

State Board of Elections approval of the Request to Purchase New Voting Equipment has not yet been received by the local Board of Elections. The ExpressVote Ballot Marker was presented to the SBOE for certification on May 11th. The certification process requires the SBOE to test the functionality of the new equipment as part of the certification process. According to unofficial sources, the statutory language that defines an official paper ballot has been amended, passed by the house, and placed before the senate for approval.

Annual hardware maintenance fees will decrease for new voting equipment. Currently, the annual maintenance fee for an ES&S AutoMark Ballot Marker is \$280 per unit. If certified, the annual maintenance fee for the ExpressVote Ballot Marker will be \$115 per unit. Currently, an iVotronic unit costs \$95 per unit. The DS200 digital imager costs \$175 per unit. The county owns 83 iVotronic touchscreen machines and will trade them for 19 DS200 machines.

OLD BUSINESS

Member Wallin commented that ES&S is the appropriate entity to lobby with the House and Senate regarding voting equipment certification issues.

Chairman Smathers directed the Director to work with the county maintenance department and Sandy Mush Precinct Officials to install the requested shelving in the Sandy Mush Precinct Building and to purchase the needed privacy screens.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion ensued regarding the County Personnel Policy and its applicability to Board of Elections staff. Chairman Smathers reported that some county commissioners were unaware of the policy, thus the county manager and commissioners are going to review and possibly rewrite the policy. The Board of Elections will revisit the policy once the county has completed its review and made any subsequent revisions.

The Board of Elections will use the County Personnel Policy evaluation instrument and scoring rubric to evaluate the Director of Elections. Each Board member will complete the evaluation instrument prior to the June 2015 meeting. The Board will confer at the meeting to reach a common score for each item.

The Director will use the County Personnel Policy evaluation instrument and scoring rubric to evaluate the Elections Specialist. The evaluation will be completed by 87th calendar day following his initial employment. The completed evaluation will be used by the Board to determine the Election Specialist's status regarding the required 90 day probationary period for new employees.

Moved, Seconded (DS, RL) and Carried (3,0) to table discussion and action until the June 10, 2015 regular meeting regarding the Director and Election Specialist job descriptions.

Discussion ensued regarding one-stop sites for the 2016 elections. Board members have reviewed one-stop data from the 2012 and 2014 elections.

Moved (JW) to dissolve the Marshall Community Center one-stop site and retain four sites. Motion died for lack of a second.

Moved (RL) to dissolve the Marshall Community Center, Hot Springs Community Center, and Greater Ivy (Beech Glen) Community Center one stop sites and maintain two one-stop sites for all future elections at the Mars Hill Public Library and Board of Elections, pending approval of the State Board of Elections. Motion died for lack of a second.

Moved (DS) to reduce the number of one-stop voting sites to 2 sites for the Presidential Preference Primary, one at Mars Hill Public Library and one at the Board of Elections, pending the approval of the State Board of Elections. Motion died for lack of a second.

Moved, Seconded (RL, DS) and Carried (2,0) for two one-stop sites, one at Mars Hill Public Library and one at the Board of Elections, for the Presidential Preference Primary and other elections following, pending State Board of Elections approval. Member Wallin opposed the motion.

OTHER MATTERS

Chairman Smathers reported on a review of the official minutes kept in the Board of Elections Office, and found that anomalies exist in the minutes going back to 2011. The July 2011 minutes did not have record of Board members being sworn in, and page 5 of the minutes was missing. The Chairman directed the office Director and Elections Specialist to review the minutes beginning January 2010 to ensure that minute documents for all meetings are accounted for, in good order, and report the findings to the Board.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

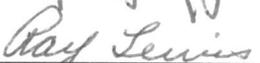
A concerned citizen requested information regarding public outreach efforts and plans by the local and state Boards of Elections and photo ID requirements for the 2016 elections. Chairman Smathers informed the public of the appointed State Board of Elections Voter Outreach Team that will schedule live visits by request. He elaborated that poll worker training and local information would be stepped up and visits by local elections staff and Board members could be requested and scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved, Seconded (DS, RL) and Carried (3,0) to adjourn at 4:55 P.M.



Kathy Ray, Director



Ray Lewis, Secretary



Dyatt Smathers, Chairman