

MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
REGULAR SESSION
Board of Elections Conference Room
June 10, 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 as amended to reflect a Closed Session to discuss the Director's annual evaluation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to approve the May 13, 2015 meeting minutes.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Director of Elections attended the Department of Social Services (DSS) June 1st Board Meeting to discuss the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA). NVRA is a federal act that mandates all public assistance and disability services agencies offer the opportunity to register to vote to each applicant or re-applicant for services and to report the data to the State Board of Elections through the agency's online portal or directly to the local Board of Elections in which the applicant for services resides. The Director of Elections reported that 5 local county voter registration applications were received during the past year as a result of DSS contacts.

The Voter ID bill will not take effect until 2016. A legal challenge has been filed. A couple of State Board of Elections public comment meetings regarding the implementation of Photo ID in 2016 are being held in western North Carolina – June 10th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Watauga County and June 11th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Sylva at the Jackson County Board of Elections.

The office staff will report later in the meeting on when it will be too late for SBOE certification of the ES&S ExpressVote Ballot Marker to make a difference in the type of voting equipment the county will use in the 2016 elections. The ExpressVote ballot marker is needed to complement the DS200 ballot imagers. The Board and office staff does not have the capacity to run two separate voting systems (the DS200 and iVotronics) that will complicate and slow down the counting and reporting process on Election Day.

MEMBERS' REPORTS

Member Wallin reported that a bill has been introduced that will extend the decertification of the iVotronic voting equipment until 2020 rather than the current decertification date of January 1, 2018. He also expressed that early voting takes the pressure off of Election Day staff.

Secretary Lewis reported that he had made an unannounced visit to the Board of Elections office and is impressed with the knowledge and expertise of the office staff.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The May 31st budget report was presented. Some reversion of funds to the county has already occurred, and the Board of Elections will expend a projected \$282,266 for the 2014-2015 fiscal year - \$10,923 under the annual budgeted funds of \$293,189.

No decision has yet been made regarding the proposed November statewide bond referendum.

A thorough review of each municipalities shape files (maps) has been completed and has resulted in some changes to the voter registration lists for all three municipalities. Board members were presented a list of the voter changes that have resulted from the review of each municipality. Updated voter listings by street have been sent to each municipality for town officials to review and confirm that the changes are accurate. Thus far, the Towns of Hot Springs and Marshall have affirmed the updated street voter listings. The Town of Mars Hill is still conducting the review.

The Board of Elections has not yet received the State Board of Election approval for the purchase of the DS200 ballot imagers. The ES&S ExpressVote was introduced to the State Board of Elections for certification on May 11th.

Discussion ensued regarding the upcoming Board of Elections appointments the last Tuesday in June and how, or if, the appointment of a new Board should impact any decision making for upcoming elections by the current Board. Discussion continued regarding the status of voting equipment replacement.

Discussion ensued regarding one-stop sites for the 2016 elections. Board members have reviewed one-stop data from the 2012 and 2014 elections. Action was taken to reduce one-stop sites (pending State Board approval) during the May 13th meeting.

Elections Specialist Gahagan presented a spreadsheet of election activities and important dates for the Presidential Preference Primary. He also presented estimated travel times under the most favorable conditions from each precinct or one-stop location to the Board of Elections.

Eight voters on Granny Shepherd Road have been affected by a precinct change from Ebbs Chapel Precinct to Beech Glen Precinct. The road was misspelled as Granny Sheperd Road and assigned to the Ebbs Chapel Precinct when initially set up in Geocode. County Commissioners need to be apprised of the positive collaboration that is occurring among the State Board of Elections and the county's e911, GIS, and Board of Election Departments to address inaccurate house numbers and street addresses for county residents and/or voters.

A report of the meeting minutes review was presented. Both Election Specialist Gahagan and Director Ray reviewed the minutes from January 2010 and forward. The Chairman asked the Director to explore options for the creation of an electronic media file of all minutes and safe storage off site. Member Wallin asked that copies of the February and April 2010 meeting minutes be forwarded to the Board members for review prior to the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved (JW) to continue to use the iVotronics through the 2016 elections.

Discussion ensued regarding the use of the iVotronics for all 2016 elections. Key points discussed included the uncertainty surrounding the State Board of Elections certification of the ES&S ExpressVote Ballot Marker, the complexities of running the two voting systems (iVotronics and DS200s) concurrently, and the lack of remaining time to purchase and implement a new voting system during the 2015-2016 elections.

Moved, Seconded (JW, RL) and Carried (3,0) to continue to use the iVotronics through the 2016 elections.

Chairman Smathers remarked that the public, the county commissioners, and the Ad Hoc Committee members need to be informed of the factors considered and subsequent decision to continue to use the iVotronic voting system through the 2016 election cycle.

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to reschedule and combine the regularly scheduled July 8th Board meeting with the July 21st Board meeting at 3:00 p.m. to oath Board members and elect Board officers for the 2015-2017 term.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

A concerned citizen expressed concern regarding the Board's decision to eliminate the Hot Springs one-stop site. She also expressed concern regarding Photo ID implementation and the importance of attending the hearing in Sylva.

A citizen shared that e911 addresses are sometimes not recorded accurately (misspellings) and the experience of having to provide e911 staff with directions to his home.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved, Seconded (JW, DS) and Carried (3,0) to go into closed session.

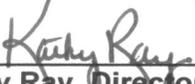
Moved, Seconded (JW, DS) and Carried (3,0) to return to open session.

The Board provided the Director with a written copy of the annual evaluation of her job performance that was signed by each Board member. The Director provided her signature that she agreed with the evaluation ratings. Board members will be provided with a copy of the evaluation at its next meeting in July.

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to table until the July meeting the discussion and action regarding the director's and election specialist's job duties .

ADJOURNMENT

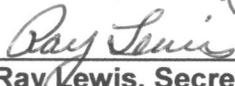
Moved, Seconded (DS, RL) and Carried (3,0) to adjourn at 5:20 P.M.



Kathy Ray, Director



Dyatt Smathers, Chairman



Ray Lewis, Secretary