

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
REGULAR/SPECIAL SESSION
Board of Elections Conference Room
Tuesday, August 18, 2015
3:00 PM**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Secretary Lewis 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 4 members of the public, Ray Lewis, Secretary; Jerry Wallin, Member; Wade Gahagan, Elections Specialist; and Kathy Ray, Director. Chairman Smathers was absent due to an unexpected medical condition.

AGENDA

Moved, Seconded (JW, RL) and Carried (2,0) to set the agenda.

PRECINCT OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS FOR 2015-2017

Moved, Seconded (JW, RL) and Carried (2,0) to accept and appoint the precinct officials as recommended by the county political party chairs.

The Republican Party Chair is continuing the search to assist the Board with vacancies at four precincts.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved, Seconded (JW, RL) and Carried (2,0) to approve the July 21, 2015 regular meeting minutes.

Moved, Seconded (JW, RL) and Carried (2,0) to approve the July 21, 2015 closed session meeting minutes.

MEMBERS' REPORTS

Secretary Lewis reported that the Winston-Salem SBOE Conference was ok, but difficult to navigate from hotel to conference area. According to the conference presentations, the Voter ID law as written will require a lot of training on procedures and documentation. Member Wallin commented that the conference was good, and he felt the Winston-Salem location was a fairer distance for our Board to travel.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The July 31, 2015 budget report was presented. The Director highlighted the line item for workers compensation and will follow up with the Payroll Coordinator for an explanation of benefits. The Director indicated that the current budget does not include funds for the Presidential Preference Primary or a Second Primary if held prior to June 30, 2015. The Commissioners are aware that the Board will have to request additional funds for these two elections.

The Director announced the Governor's appointment of Madison County Commissioner James L. Baker to fill the vacancy on the North Carolina State Board of Elections.

The Director gave an update on the SBOE ADA survey and checklist requirement of all polling sites. The SBOE requires the survey be conducted of each precinct and one-stop polling site prior to each presidential election. The Director and Elections Specialist have begun the work of visiting the sites to complete the ADA checklist. Some visited sites clearly do not meet ADA standards and will need mitigating modifications prior to use as polling sites. The visits to remaining

sites will resume in the days to come. The Director informed the Board that the Director must sign off on the SBOE cover sheet and checklist for each polling site prior to submission to the SBOE. She informed the Board that she will not sign off on polling sites that do not meet ADA standards if mitigating measures are not taken and documented. Member Wallin informed that in the past the County Department (Building Inspections) handled the ADA surveys.

The Director informed the Board of the contents of the SBOE Same Day Registration (SDR) webinar and the subsequent additional workload implications for the elections staff. She will present the webinar for the local Board members if the court ruling to reinstate SDR stands for the 2016 elections. SDR will not affect the county's municipal elections as no municipality provides absentee voting.

The Director announced that she will speak to the Friends of Madison County on September 3, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall of Mars Hill University. BOE members were invited to be present during the presentation. The Director will consult with the SBOE Voter Outreach team regarding appropriate content for presentation.

The Director informed that a motion sensor has been installed at the entrance of the main office to alert the office staff that someone has entered the Board of Elections office area for services or assistance.

OLD BUSINESS

The Board tabled discussion and action on the Director and Election Specialist job duties and descriptions.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board tabled action on one-stop sites. Discussion ensued regarding the law to match cumulative hours with previous comparable elections.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

A citizen expressed concern regarding the difficulty of recruiting poll workers. She inquired if poll workers' Election Day duties could be shared by more than one worker.

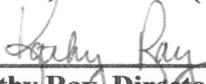
A citizen suggested a recruitment initiative for poll workers. She also suggested the use of volunteers to assist the elections office and staff with conducting election activities.

The Director expressed concern regarding the overburdened work environment, the lack of capacity, the history of one-stop reporting errors, and the increased risk of human error during elections. In her opinion, these conditions are being created by providing multiple one-stop sites with extensive hours of operation while concurrently conducting all other time sensitive and required election activities. She also stated the number of one-stop sites and hours are negatively impacting the time to be thorough and the attention to detail that is necessary for accuracy and reconciliation of voters, forms, and election results. The public expects accurate reporting on election night, and public perception is being negatively impacted by human errors that must be corrected and reported during the canvass process.

Discussion ensued regarding the SBOE process for local BOE requests to reduce one-stop sites and hours.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved, Seconded (JW, RL) and Carried (2,0) to adjourn at 4:25 P.M.



Kathy Ray, Director



Dyatt Smathers, Chairman



Ray Lewis, Secretary