

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
REGULAR/SPECIAL SESSION
Board of Elections Conference Room
Tuesday, September 16, 2015
3:00 PM**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Smathers called the meeting of the Madison County Board of Elections to order at 3:05 p.m. at the Board of Elections Conference Room. In attendance were 5 members of the public; Dyatt F. Smathers, Chair; 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 (2,0) to approve the August 18, 2015 regular meeting minutes. Chairman Smathers did not vote as he was not present at the August 18, 2015 meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Smathers noted an active time in elections and that several candidates are likely to be on the Presidential Preference Primary ballot. He additionally expressed appreciation for the newspaper article regarding the need for election judges, commented on the difficulties of finding competent poll workers, summarized an NPR radio report on voting equipment purchased with HAVA funds, noted the uncertainty of the election law changes, and announced the swearing in of former Commissioner James (Jim) L. Baker, Jr. to the State Board of Elections on Friday morning (September 18th) at 11:00. He expressed appreciation for having a State Board of Elections Member to represent the western part of the state and announced SBOE Member Baker will be attending the October 8th North Carolina Association of Election Directors' (NCADE) district meeting in Waynesville.

MEMBERS' REPORTS

Member Wallin commented that Judge Schroeder has not yet rendered a decision regarding the election law changes and challenges.

Secretary Lewis added that a busy time in elections is coming up.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The August 2015 budget report was presented. The Director highlighted the line item for temporary employees' salaries. County commissioners appropriated funds for approximately 12 weeks of temporary office assistance employment. The funds will be reserved for use around the March 15th Presidential Preference Primary.

The Director reported that Printelect has provided excellent service with maintaining the voting equipment. Motherboard batteries have been replaced in all iVotronic machines.

All municipal and 2016 election sites have returned the polling place agreements with the exception of the school system. The Laurel Precinct site is currently located at the former Laurel Elementary School site. The Board will need to keep

abreast of the transition plan for the building and site as the March 15th Presidential Preference Primary approaches in the event that the Laurel School site is unavailable or unusable.

NEW BUSINESS

The Precinct Officials' Orientation is scheduled for September 28, 2015 from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. in Room 26 of the Administrative Building. Precinct Judges have been notified and will receive a reminder notification prior to the session. Board members are encouraged to attend.

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to approve the list of 2015 Municipal Elections voting equipment and media.

The Director and Elections Specialist have developed a plan for scanning seal numbers to spreadsheets rather than using the manual entry of seal numbers by staff that has resulted in a history of recording errors.

Precinct officials from each municipality will Logic & Accuracy (L&A) test the voting equipment and media. Both training and L&A testing will occur simultaneously under the supervision of the director. Jacob Ray will be contacted to assist with vote testing the audio ballots.

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to approve the 2015 Municipal Elections staff and training agenda.

ADA polling place surveys have been conducted on all one-stop sites and community centers that are used as polling locations. Schools have not yet been surveyed. Sites will be brought as closely as possible into compliance using soft mitigations such as: designated elections staff to open doors, the installation of curbside alarms, door knob ADA adapters, entrance threshold ramps, van accessible parking signs, and other miscellaneous measures. The maintenance director has requested advanced notice of work that needs to be done by the county maintenance department.

The SBOE Same Day Registration (SDR) webinar will be presented if SDR is reinstated for the 2016 elections.

OLD BUSINESS

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to approve the job duties of the director and elections specialist.

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to approve Darlene Cutshall Shelton as the Chief Judge at the Laurel Precinct, Charles Glenn Peterson as the Republican Judge at the Revere Rice Cove Precinct, and David Olvera as the Chief Judge at the Sandy Mush Precinct.

Discussion ensued regarding the 2016 elections and the State Board of Elections process for requesting a reduction in the cumulative hours requirements and/or number of one-stop voting sites.

Moved, Seconded (RL, DS) and Carried (2,1) to leave the Board of Elections and Mars Hill Public Library one-stop sites open and close the Marshall Community Center, Hot Springs Community Center, and Beech Glen Community Center sites pending State Board of Elections approval. Member Wallin opposed the motion.

OTHER MATTERS

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to approve the destruction of the 2011 Municipal Election materials, NVRA declination forms through January 2013, financial records through June 2011, duplicate copies of SBOE numbered memos, and other files and materials that have lost administrative value.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

A citizen expressed concern regarding the size of the 2016 elections.

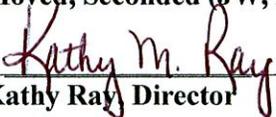
A citizen complimented the Mars Hill University presentation that the director provided regarding voter law changes.

A citizen announced Voter Registration Day, Tuesday, September 22, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at each library. This is a national non-partisan activity. She also expressed concern and displeasure regarding the Board's action to reduce the number of one-stop sites.

A citizen asked for clarification on the date for the decertification of DRE voting equipment. She inquired why Hot Spring Community Center one-stop site was not being kept open given the travel distances for voters in that area of the county.

ADJOURNMENT

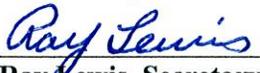
Moved, Seconded (JW, RL) and Carried (3,0) to adjourn at 5:05 P.M.



Kathy Ray, Director



Dyatt Smathers, Chairman



Ray Lewis, Secretary