

MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
REGULAR SESSION
Board of Elections Conference Room
Wednesday, October 14, 2015
3:00 PM

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 6 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 as amended to add Election Equipment Media under Other Matters.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to approve the September 16, 2015 regular meeting minutes.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Smathers reported that he attended the most recent county commissioners meeting and provided an update regarding the General Assembly and election law changes.

He further reported that the Director, Secretary Lewis, and he attended the State Board of Elections meeting in Raleigh on September 18th at which Madison County native James (Jim) L. Baker was sworn in as a member of the State Board of Elections. Also at that meeting, two counties' presented non-unanimous one-stop plans for State Board review and approval. The State Board's review process prompted the Chair to emphasize that a unanimous one-stop plan is very important.

He also attended, along with Secretary Lewis and the office staff, the District 1 North Carolina Association of Directors of Elections (NCADE) meeting in Waynesville on October 8th. State Board Member James L. Baker and former State Board of Elections General Counsel Don Wright were guest speakers at the meeting.

Chair Smathers reported that former General Counsel Wright emphasized the growing number of unaffiliated voters. Unaffiliated voters comprise the second largest group of registered voters in the state.

Chair Smathers expressed appreciation to members of the public and press for attending the Madison County's BOE meetings.

MEMBERS' REPORTS

Member Wallin reported that he consulted with State Board of Elections attorneys regarding Photo ID requirements for 2016. Voters who do not have acceptable Photo IDs will be provided alternative options for voting. A federal judge will rule on Same Day Registration and Out of Precinct voting prior to the Primary 2016 election.

Secretary Lewis complimented the quality of the Waynesville District meeting. He also suggested that the State Board of Elections consider sending trainers out to districts rather than everyone having to go to Raleigh. He stated that sending trainers to districts would result in huge savings in travel and travel subsistence costs for counties.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The September 30, 2015 budget and expenditure report was presented. The Director reported that the Lexmark all-in-one machine stopped functioning, and the machine was replaced with an in-office Toshiba machine. The Toshiba functions in a similar manner to the Lexmark, saving the county the expense of purchasing new equipment. County IT staff was commended for assisting with the configuration of the all-in-one machine.

The 2016 Primary Election calendar was presented. The Director indicated key dates that the Board will need to be available. The voter registration deadline for the Primary 2016 election is February 19th.

The Director reviewed with the Board SBOE Numbered Memos 2015-05 and 2015-06. The Madison County Board of Elections Emergency Disaster and Emergency Balloting Plans were submitted for Board review. The Director has submitted a draft of the Emergency Balloting Plan to the State Board of Elections staff for review.

The Elections Specialist reviewed General Statute 163.166.12 and voter registration requirements with the Board members. He clarified the information that must be provided when registering to vote, as well as the validation process using the State Board of Elections Information Management System (SEIMS).

OTHER MATTERS

Moved, Seconded (DS, RL) and Carried (3,0) to approve the substitute list of election equipment and media assignments for the Municipal 2015 Town elections.

OLD BUSINESS

The Director reported that the search is continuing for a Republican Judge at the Sandy Mush Precinct.

Spring Creek Republican Judge Henry (Hank) Shaner resigned the position, citing a demanding personal schedule.

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to approve Vernon Goodwin as the Spring Creek Republican Judge.

Chair Smathers reported on the State Board of Elections process for approving one-stop plans. He provided data for the number of one-stop hours that surrounding counties are providing. His research revealed that Madison County was 23rd in the entire state for Primary 2012 in the number of one-stop hours provided. He elaborated that the county was at the top of the list of surrounding counties, providing three (3) times as many one stop hours as the bottom 5 counties in the mountains.

Moved, Seconded (DS, JW) and Carried (3,0) that the one-stop plan for the Primary Election of 2016 be for three (3) sites – one to be located at Hot Springs Community Center, one to be located at Beech Glen Community Center, and one to be located at the Board of Elections; and to maintain voting hours at 10 hours per weekday and 5 hours per Saturday, pending State Board of Elections approval.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

A citizen expressed concerns he had read about regarding voting by mail and its potential to encourage activities such as vote buying. Chair Smathers added that there was a discussion of the future of online voting in North Carolina at the Waynesville meeting and the potential for hackers to compromise election results.

A citizen distributed Photo ID push cards provided by the State Board of Elections.

Chair Smathers informed citizens that House Bill 373 Section 2.(h) establishes the following: "Temporary Orders. - In order to accommodate the scheduling of the 2016 primary before the Tuesday after the first Monday in May, the State

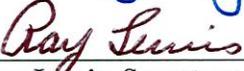
Board of Elections may issue temporary orders that may change, modify, delete, amend, or add to any statute contained in Chapter 163 of the General Statutes, any rules contained in Title 8 of the North Carolina Administrative Code, or any other election regulation or guideline that may affect the 2016 primary elections. These temporary orders shall only be effective for the 2016 primary elections.”

ADJOURNMENT

Moved, Seconded (JW, RL) and Carried (3,0) to adjourn at 4:35 P.M.



Kathy Ray, Director



Ray Lewis, Secretary



Dyatt Smathers, Chairman