

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
REGULAR SESSION
Board of Elections Conference Room
Wednesday, January 13, 2016
3:00 PM**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chair 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 4 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 (3,0) to approve the December 9, 2015 meeting minutes.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair informed that any citizen may file for an office, and it makes no difference if the spouse is the chair of a political party within the county.

The State Board of Elections has approved twenty-seven presidential candidates for the Primary Election ballots.

Secretary Ray Lewis was recognized for his assistance with meals and clean-up during the elections staff training.

An attorney from Wake County has been appointed to replace former State Board Member Josh Howard. The State Board Members will select the Chair on Friday, January 15.

MEMBERS' REPORTS

Secretary Lewis complimented the staff training.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The December 31, 2015 budget and expenditure report was presented. All towns have submitted payment for the November 2015 Municipal Elections.

The State Board of Elections will address the One-Stop Plan Reduction Request on Friday, January 15.

Thirty-one judges attended the staff training on January 9. Future trainings are scheduled for January 16, January 30, and February 6. As trainings unfold, staff attendance will be adjusted according to the material that is covered.

NEW BUSINESS

The Director shared information regarding the State Board of Elections task that county boards of elections distribute photo ID materials to designated sites across counties. The Chair requested that a bi-partisan team travel together to distribute the material.

Moved, Seconded (JW, RL) and Carried (3,0) to allow the Director to designate a Democrat and a Republican to distribute the materials within the confines of the State Board directives and pay the staff appropriately.

The Chair reported that only one county vehicle is available for interdepartmental use. The Director will check with the maintenance department about the use of the maintenance truck and staff for delivering the voting equipment.

The Director presented the One-Stop Voting Implementation Plan that focuses on security as pertaining to specific sites and hours of operation.

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to approve Dennis McMahan as the Chief Judge at Mars Hill Precinct to temporarily replace Linda Campbell.

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to approve Ray Moore as the Republican Judge at Mars Hill Precinct to temporarily replace Dennis McMahan.

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to approve Robin Smathers as a Republican poll worker assistant at Mars Hill Precinct.

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) for the Board of Elections Chair to approve the Director's timesheet.

OLD BUSINESS

Moved, Seconded (RL, JW) and Carried (3,0) to approve the updated list of poll worker assistants. Vacancies remain at Walnut, Sandy Mush, and Ebbs Chapel. The Director reported that both party chairs have worked diligently to fill vacancies.

The Director commented that she is getting some push back regarding the action taken at the December board meeting regarding the opening and closing iVotronic process on Election Day and security plan for the one-stop sites.

Moved, Seconded (DS, RL) and Carried (3,0) to maintain the same protocols for preparing election equipment and security plans as used during previous elections.

OTHER MATTERS

The Director reported on the status of the purchase and installation of security gates at the Beech Glen Community Center. The company that manufactured the gates at Mars Hill Public Library no longer provides the product. The Director and Maintenance Director will explore available options.

Comments were made regarding public access to the voting enclosure and poll workers at the Beech Glen Community Center one-stop site.

The Elections Specialist reported on the NCADE District meeting held Monday, January 11th in Sylva. State Board of Elections Voter Outreach staff member Ted Fitzgerald spoke to the group about increased public relations and media efforts to inform voters of the photo ID requirements. Mr. Fitzgerald also commented that there would be high level interest by many groups and the media during this election. Mr. Fitzgerald informed directors to expect a 30 percent increase in both provisional and absentee mail-in balloting. County level emergency voting plans were discussed at the NCADE meeting. Directors at the meeting commented that county level Emergency Management Services would have to prioritize responses, and elections would not be top priority in many cases such as medical emergencies, etc. NCADE attendees also learned that House Bill 100 has been introduced regarding jury excuses due to being non-US citizens. If the bill passes, clerks of superior courts will be required to report excused individuals due to non-US citizenship status to the county board of elections.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

A citizen complimented the elections staff.

A citizen informed the Board of a door to door effort that he and his wife conduct within their precinct during each election to keep Democratic and some unaffiliated voters informed.

A citizen suggested the use of signs to discourage general public interaction with the elections staff at the Beech Glen Community Center one-stop site.

A citizen inquired about contingency plans for poll worker absences on Election Day.

The Elections Director commented that county level election commissions in Tennessee are comprised of 5 members.

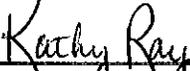
ANNOUNCEMENT

The Director informed those present of a radio interview that is scheduled with Mars Hill University Rural Heritage Museum's radio broadcast. The interview is scheduled for Wednesday, January 20th.

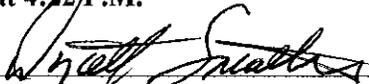
The next Board meeting is Wednesday, February 10, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

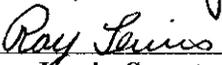
Moved, Seconded (JW, RL) and Carried (3,0) to adjourn at 4:22 P.M.



Kathy Ray, Director



Dyatt Smathers, Chairman



Ray Lewis, Secretary