

**Sumner County Election Commission
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 4:00 pm**

Members present: Chairman M. Allen Ehmling, Secretary Patricia D. Collins and Members, Jeffery B. Hulse and John W. Smith. Also present: Lori D. Atchley, Administrator of Elections and Annette Haw, Assistant Administrator of Election. The meeting convened at 4:00 p.m. in Room 106 in the County Administration Building, Gallatin TN and a quorum was present.

I. Call meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order, motion by Commissioner Hulse, seconded by Commissioner Smith and the motion passed 4-0.

II. Approve Agenda

The Agenda was approved with a motion by Commissioner Hulse, seconded by Commissioner Smith, and the motion passed 4-0.

III. Old Business

Approved minutes of the following meetings:

Motions to approve the December 10, 2019 regular meeting minutes and the December 19, special call meeting minutes by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Hulse, motions passed 4-0.

IV. New Business

A. Commissioners present inspected 85 newly processed voter registration applications out of the total registrations of 847 as required by statute with no discretions noted. All Commissioners present signed the report.

B. No appeals.

C. Report from the Administrator

AOE stated she had reached out to Victoria with McGrath Consulting – the firm hired to perform the payroll summary for the election office. AOE and Chairman initially told by McGrath that she hoped to have analysis completed by year end. An e-mail to McGrath from AOE in mid-December was answered that she was having difficulty obtaining information from five of the ten counties. AOE will contact McGrath suggesting she help reach out to the counties to facilitate the needed information in order to complete the analysis.

AOE stated that the budget was prepared except for potential legislation and payroll related figures required from the finance department. AOE stated that the budget will be presented at the next regular Election Commission meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Hulse to move the machine certification to the end of the Agenda, prior to adjournment. The motion passed 4-0

AOE concluded the Administrator report.

V. Report From Election Commissioners

Chairman Ehmling gave an update in regards to the lawsuit, civil action no. 3:19 – CV- 365 filed by the League of Women Voters, the NAACP, et al. The Chairman indicated that a response was due no later than January 16, 2020. Documents had been requested from Sumner County via a subpoena to Chairman Ehmling. The subpoena was not properly served on the Chairman as it was left at the election commission office with staff. AOE has been working with the County Law Director, Leah Dennen, who has enlisted the legal counsel of Linda Wright and Scott Derek to assist with the case in regards to Sumner County. Chairman advised updates will be forthcoming as the matter proceeds. There was general discussion among commissioners about the matter. No action was taken.

Commissioner Smith stated he wanted to re-visit the State Election Commission's Code of Conduct when Commissioner Fussell returned. Further, Commissioner Smith wanted to confirm that wearing the uniforms was not required and stated he had been told otherwise. AOE stated that it had never been a requirement, and that no training had been completed so no discussion had been had regarding the matter. Chairman Ehmling stated that he did not recall the year, but that at a minimum of five years earlier the Election Commission had discussed the matter and re-affirmed the policy of the Commission was that the uniforms were not mandatory. Assistant AOE Haw stated that the uniforms were actually representative of the Tennessee State Flag. Commissioner Hulsey discussed the significant amount of blue items in the voting locations including table cloths, provisional bags, tape, blue jeans, etc. No action was taken.

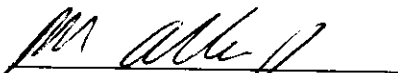
Commissioner Collins inquired as to the dates of the June 2020 TACEO seminar. Assistant Administrator Haw said the preliminary dates were June 14-17, but would confirm once the paperwork was received from TACEO.

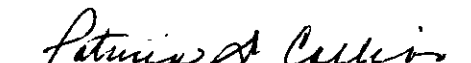
Motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Hulsey to suspend the meeting to reconvene in the voting machine storage area, and the motion passed 4-0.

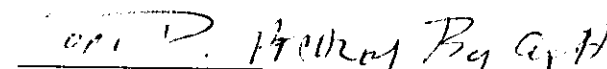
The meeting reconvened at 5:02 p.m. in the voting machine storage area. The Election Commissioners verified the Early Voting Machines, Satellite Voting Machines and the Licensed Facilities Voting Machines outer seals, protective count number and votes on the machine. The Election Commissioners signed the report.

VI. Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Hulsey, seconded by Commissioner Collins to adjourn the meeting, the motion passed 4-0 and the meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.


M. Allen Ehmling, Chairman


Patricia D. Collins, Secretary


Lori D. Atchley, Administrator of Elections