

**Sumner County Election Commission
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 8, 2018**

Members present: Chairman Allen Ehmling, Secretary Patricia Collins and Members, Jeffrey Hulseley, John W. Smith. Absent Barbara Brake. Also present: Lori D. Atchley, Administrator of Elections and Annette Haw, Assistant Administrator of Elections. The meeting convened at 2:02 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 Smith, seconded by Commissioner Hulseley and the motion passed 4-0.

II. Approve Agenda

The Agenda was approved with the exception of moving the locking of the bags prior to adjournment, and immediately following "Report from Election Commissioners" with a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Collins, and the motion passed 4-0.

III. Old Business

A. Approve minutes of December 12, 2017 with a motion by Commissioner Hulseley, seconded by Commissioner Collins, and the motion passed 4-0.

IV. New Business

A. Commissioners present inspected 36 newly processed voter registration applications out of the total registrations of 357 processed as required by statute with no discretions noted. All Commissioners present signed the report.

B. No appeals.

C. Report from Administrator

AOE presented list of approximately 273 poll workers requesting approval from the commission, with the caveat that AOE and AAOE be allowed to make changes, substitutions and additions as necessary to fill all poll worker positions for the May 1, 2018 election. Motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Hulseley and the motion passed 4-0.

AOE provided update on Kardveyors. While no motion required, AOE stated that she and AAOE had been researching the equipment, and suggested, without objection from the commission, submitting in the 2018 – 2019 budget request to the county commission to purchase two new double stack Kardveyors for approximately \$35,000 - \$37,000 each, and sell three single stack Kardveyors presently in the office to other election offices. AOE stated that the machines should yield approximately \$10,000 each, and already had interest from other counties to purchase. AOE stated that she had spoken to law Director Leah Dennen, who stated that the sale did not have to go through gov deals, which might yield little to no returns, if the units were sold to other government entities, as long as it was approved by the General Operations committee. Dennen used examples of the sale of similar county equipment such as used ambulances and police cars to smaller/other counties. Without objection, the commission agreed that AOE submit the request as stated in the budget to be presented at the February, 2018 meeting.

AOE stated that as instructed, inquiries had been made to other counties as to their policy regarding payment of election commission meetings less than one hour in length. AOE stated that due to varying circumstances – there was not an “apples to apples” comparison with similarly sized counties. Some counties had elections in odd number years, some counties had higher registration levels due to military presence, some counties held community elections (high school, civic clubs, etc.) outside of regular elections and so forth. Additionally, many counties only meet quarterly, as allowed by statute, in odd number years with no elections; however, meetings would be required the last quarter of any odd number election year due for May primaries in the following year. AOE believes that the Sumner County Election Commission should formulate a policy based on the situations specific to Sumner County. Chairman Ehmling stated that the guidance provided by the State had been vague. Chairman Ehmling restated his earlier position that he believes the intent of the statute was clear and that review of registrations was part of the requirements of serving as an election commission, not part of conducting an election, otherwise, if every meeting was considered conducting an election, there would be no purpose for the statute. After discussion amongst the commissioners, the following list was submitted as items that constitute “conducting an election” per statute, and would constitute pay regardless of the length of the meeting. The list includes the following: approving early voting locations, times and dates; setting opening and closing hours of polls on election day; appointing machine technicians; approving appointment of poll workers; locking ballot bags; approving ballots; certify and verify early voting, nursing home, satellite and election day machines; precinct visits and unlocking ballot bags on election day; canvassing machines and seals after election day; certifying the election; and any special call meetings related to a specific election, with items added or removed as deemed by a majority vote of the commission. Motion by Commissioner Hulsey, seconded by Commissioner Collins, motion passed 4-0.

AOE suggested submitting in the 2018 -2019 budget to the county commission, payment of \$75 on Election Day for the first hour of work performed by election commissioners, and \$10 per hour thereafter, as in the past, some commissioners had worked 5 - 7 hours and some had worked 15 – 17 hours, while historically all had been paid the same \$75 per meeting fee. Mileage has always been paid. Motion to submit as detailed above by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Hulsey and passed unanimously 4-0.

AOE concluded the Administrator report.

V. Report From Election Commissioners

General discussion about meeting only quarterly in odd number non election years. Chairman Ehmling stated that this had been brought up in the past and had failed. AOE stated at that time, there was no policy regarding non-payment of meetings less than an hour. Commissioner Smith inquired what would happen if business arose (excessive number of registrations for example). Commissioner Ehmling stated that a meeting would be called, noticed and held. Commissioners agreed, without a motion, to defer the matter until all commissioners were present.


All provisional and absentee ballot bags were locked and sealed by all commissioners present. The appropriate certification forms were signed.

VI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Hulsey and seconded by Commissioner Smith and the motion passed unanimously 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.


M. Allen Ehmling, Chairman


Patricia Collins, Secretary


Lori D. Atchley, Administrator of Elections