

**Sumner County Election Commission  
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 8, 2019**

**Members present:** M. Allen Ehmling, Chairman and Members J. Michael Fussell and John W. Smith. Also present: Annette Haw, Assistant Administrator of Elections. The meeting convened at 4:03 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 by Chairman Ehmling with a motion by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Smith and the motion passed 3-0.

II. Approve Agenda

The Agenda was approved with a motion by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Smith, to approve the Agenda and the motion passed 3-0.

III. Old Business

A. Approve minutes of November 16, 2018 with a motion by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Smith, and the motion passed 3-0.

B. Approve minutes of November 26, 2018 with a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Fussell, and the motion passed 3-0.

IV. New Business

A. Commissioners present inspected 98 newly processed voter registration applications out of the total registrations of 974 processed as required by statute with no discretions noted. All Commissioners present signed the report.

B. No appeals.

C. Report from Assistant Administrator.

Assistant Administrator had no report.

V. Report From Election Commissioners

Chairman Ehmling requested a renovation update from AAOE. AAOE stated office is operational with no need to close while flooring and counters are installed. Estimated 30 days for of final completion of project. AAOE mentioned the County saves money utilizing County Maintenance staff for wall removal, front line re-configuration, electric lines moved and painting. Minimal overall monies spent. Largest expenditures will be flooring and front line counters.

Chairman Ehmling and Commissioner Fussell requested a "ball park" figure of budget overages from AAOE, who stated overall shortage is approximately \$57,650; however, the finance department has indicated that they will work with us to move the remaining balance of \$11,422 from poll workers account to the full time election deputies account leaving a net shortage of approximately \$47,000. This shortage could be higher dependent on final December month end numbers provided by Finance Department, who is delayed due to 1099 & yearend

processing. Also unknown, if Election Deputy Staff choose to take comp hours as monetary pay versus time. In addition, Chairman requested next dates of County Commission Budget meetings and confirmed scheduled 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month.


Chairman Ehmling, Commissioner Fussell and Commissioner Smith continued general conversation with AAOE about any 2018-2019 overages. AAOE stated reasons were as follows: 1) unexpected FMLA trained staff member not available for the November Election cycle that required a trained full time staff to be pulled from voter service and registrations to process absentee ballots along with full time staff due to learning curve 2), denial of a new employee by last County Commission Budget committee who would have been trained versus hiring part time staff members who had not been trained 3) Full time, trained staff must train and review work completed by part time staff 4) Experienced historical high and unexpected turn out for a mid-term (non-Presidential) November General election 5) the 90 day time frame between the May, August and November elections 6) Epic levels of OVRs (Online Voter Registrations Applications), including over 2000 on the last day to register 7) countless voter registration drives by various groups and organizations incurred more overtime. The new staff denied for 2018-2019 by County Commission was to be trained in this area. OVRs were implemented July 1, 2017 and the State did not have predictions about the increased number of new and changed registration volume that would be generated by social media during an election cycle.

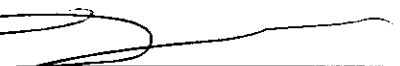
General conversation with Chairman Ehmling, Commissioner Fussell and Commissioner Smith with AAOE that the Election Commissions budget will be presented to the SCEC for approval at the next February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting and once approved must be submitted to the County Commission Budget Committee by March 1<sup>st</sup>. The Budget Committee will later schedule a meeting time with the AOE and all Department Heads to present their budgets. Commissioners agreed not to change the regular 4:00 pm meeting time on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Ehmling asked the AAOE if a date had been scheduled for the poll worker training group function. AAOE stated it had not due to unknown time frame of renovations but believed a March time frame. Chairman requested the date be forwarded to commissioners when scheduled.

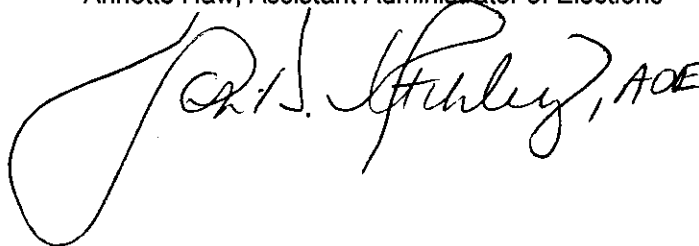
## VI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Smith and the motion passed 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

  
M. Allen Ehmling, Chairman

  
John W. Smith, Acting Secretary

  
Annette Haw, Assistant Administrator of Elections

  
John S. Hurley, AOE