Members present: Chairman M. Allen Ehmling, Secretary Patricia D. Collins and Members, J. Michael Fussell and John W. Smith. Also present: Assistant Administrator of Election Annette Haw. Commissioner Hulsey and Administrator Atchley not in attendance. 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, motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Fussell and the motion passed 4-0.

II. Approve Agenda

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

III. Old Business

Motions to approve the January 14, 2020 regular meeting minutes by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Collins, motions passed 3-1. Commissioner Fussell abstained from vote due to not attending the last meeting.

IV. New Business

A. Commissioners present inspected 191 newly processed voter registration applications out of the total registrations of 1906 as required by statute with no dispositions noted. All Commissioners present signed the report.

B. Commissioners considered one appeal due to a voter answering the felony question in error. Motion was made to grant the appeal by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Collins. The motion was passed to grant the appeal 4-0.

C. Report from the Administrator

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Collins and seconded by Commissioner Smith to call a Special Call meeting, February 26 at 4pm to review and approve the budget to be submitted to the County Commission on February 28. The motion passed 4-0.

AAOE recommended, at the request of the AOE that the Commissioners take additional time to review the final McGrath Compensation Analysis report and further discuss it during the February 26th Special Call meeting to approve and review the budget. AOE and AAOE will include the estimated $53k to rectify the Election Deputies salary discrepancies as proposed in past submitted budgets for the Election Commissioners to vote on.

AAOE concluded the Administrator report.
V. Report From Election Commissioners

Chairman Ehmling discussed that he and Assistant Administrator of Election Haw attended and spoke on elections and the 2020 election cycle at the Gallatin Rotary Club on February 6.

Motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Smith to change the regularly scheduled May 12 meeting to May 5 at 4:00 pm, and the motion passed 4-0.

Motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Fussell at 5:07 p.m. to suspend the meeting to reconvene in the voting machine storage area, and the motion passed 4-0.

Commissioner Smith asked AAOE earlier in the day to add “gymnasium” to any notices on the Portland early voting locations. A poll worker notified a local Portland news reporter that a marquee was in front of the Portland Community Center entrance. The reporter contacted Commissioner Collins and Smith inquiring why we were not advertising early voting on the marquee. AAOE stated she was just at the early voting location the prior week and did not observe a new marquee in front at the community center entrance. AAOE stated she would look into the marquee and the name of the location. The site has been referred to as the Portland Community Center with the same address for a very long time. There is only one entrance and exit to the location which includes the gym, a community pool and a log cabin on the compound. AAOE stated she would look into where the marquee is placed, any current signage and the progress of the renovations. Commissioner Smith stated he was unaware of any renovations going on there. AAOE stated renovations are going on all over the county including the White House City Hall and would attempt to keep him up to date but near impossible.

The meeting reconvened at 5:18 p.m. in the voting machine storage area. The Election Commissioners verified the Election Day 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 Smith, seconded by Commissioner Collins to adjourn the meeting, the motion passed 4-0 and the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

M. Allen Ehmling, Chairman
Patricia D. Collins, Secretary
Anne J. Haw, Assistant Administrator of Elections