

**Sumner County Election Commission
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 9, 2019**

Members present: Chairman M. Allen Ehmling, Secretary Patricia D. Collins and Member J. Michael Fussell, Jeff Hulsey, John W. Smith. Also present: Lori D. Atchley, Administrator of Elections and Annette Haw, Assistant Administrator of Elections. 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 Smith, seconded by Commissioner Collins and the motion passed 5-0.

II. Approve Agenda

The Agenda was approved with an amendment by motion to amend the agenda to vote on a new SCEC Chairman and Secretary. Motion to amend made by Commissioner Hulsey, seconded by Commissioner Collins and the motion passed 5-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hulsey, seconded by Commissioner Collins to re-elect M. Allen Ehmling as chairman. Motion passed 5-0

Motion was made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Fussell to re-elect Patricia D. Collins as Secretary. Motion passed 5-0.

A motion to approve the newly amended agenda with newly elected Chairman Ehmling and Secretary Collins was made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Collins, to approve the Agenda and the motion passed 5-0.

III. Old Business

Approve minutes of the following meetings:

February 12, 2019 minutes approved with a motion to approve by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner Hulsey and the motion passed 5-0.

February 25, 2019 minutes approved with a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Chairman Hulsey, and the motion passed 5-0.

IV. New Business

A. Commissioners present inspected 105 newly processed voter registration applications out of the total registrations of 1041 processed as required by statute with no discretions noted. All Commissioners present signed the report.

B. No appeals.

C. Report from Administrator:

AOE requested that the commissioners, in their judgement based on TCA 2-3-103, review and determine if additional precincts should be added and split out or allow the voter count to exceed the limited size of 6000 at three existing precincts, if practicable from Vol State precinct 601 with a total voter count of 5716, Whitten

Elementary precinct 701 at 5899, both close to 6000 voters and Long Hollow precinct 703 now exceeding at 6332 total voters. General discussion and agreement was made that all three sites had ample parking and more equipment and workers would be provided. A motion was made to allow all three precincts to exceed the 6000 voter count by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Collins, and the motion passed 5-0 to exceed the 6000 voter count at Vol State, Whitten Elementary and Long Hollow Baptist precincts for the 2020 election cycle.

AOE stated she will present to the County Commission on Monday, April 15 at 7:00 pm the issues of early voting at the two largest populated areas of Gallatin and Hendersonville and the rapid growth of Sumner County. Currently there is no large venue to conduct early voting in both Gallatin and Hendersonville for the full 14 days of early voting outside of the Gallatin Civic Center who has denied us use of other than election day which would require the continuance of voting at the County Administration Building that completely disrupts other Departmental daily business and the parking lot already at capacity. Discussed the barn the Rogers Group gave to the County who was required to maintain it for the County's personal use and was to be returned to the Rogers Group after 5 years if not maintained. Would be a great location for both Hendersonville and Gallatin early voting and could be used as an event center however discussed the cost of renovating it. Some discussion of purchasing land behind the Archives building for additional parking, unlikely approved and the outright move of the Election Office to land on Airport Blvd, Gallatin but impossible for the 2020 presidential election cycle. No existing place large enough to voter our largest block of voters in Hendersonville other than the Library who would kindly prefer us not to disrupt the daily patrons coming in as well so many children that use it. We need the full 14 days in Hendersonville and Gallatin. Conversation has begun with some of Hendersonville's aldermen and mayor as well as some from the County Commission to consider the possibility of splitting a lease at the old Walmart building or another spot to early vote Hendersonville for the full 14 days. In addition, an old church location next to Howard school will be discussed with the commission to who would be recommended to purchase the location for the purpose of voting in Gallatin. Leasing of commercial locations in Hendersonville or Gallatin would require the County Commission to fund it if no suitable location can be found for the two areas. All commissioners agreed that both Gallatin and Hendersonville needs to have a site to vote all 14 days of early voting and that we would continue to satellite vote, a limited # of days in our less populated areas of Portland, White House, Westmoreland and Goodlettsville areas. We are at critical mass and a solution must be made quickly!

Election Commission budget hearing is scheduled for April 11 @ 12:15. AOE encouraged the commissioners to attend in support of the continued request to pay competitive salaries to a staff that have extensive knowledge of and application of and perform all job duties by Tennessee TCA law requirements. AOE has worked for seven years to have competitive salaries and have even requested the Budget committee to at a minimum provide the average low County Administration Departmental salary. The Budget committee last fiscal year stated the Election Commission would be the next Department to be provided competitive salaries. Other items was inflated budget detailed with every costly Legislative bill in session until May specifically absentee for any reason, register by party, early voting on Sundays, register & vote on Election Day, Precinct based optical scanners/VVPAT, a federal mandate and Administrator pay.

AOE reviewed and updated the SCEC on the various legislative bills of Election registry ethics, primary losers, absentee for any reason, register by party, early voting on Sundays, register & vote on Election Day, Precinct based optical scanners/VVPAT, a federal mandate, Administrator pay, Election Commissioner ethics and registration drives. Discussed that a new governor may delay any and all legislation bills for 30 days.

AOE concluded the Administrator report.

V. Report From Election Commissioners

Chairman

Chairman Ehmling stated that he had not met with Welch College since his first contact to discuss it as an early voting location.

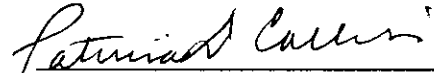
Commissioner Collins attended the State Election Commissions meeting the previous week who brought proposals by VVPAT vendors but excluded our vendor, Microvote who has over 50% of the counties in Tennessee. Stated the Code of Conduct for Commissioners would be voted on July 11th.

VI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Hulsey and the motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.



M. Allen Ehmling, Chairman



Patricia D. Collins, Secretary



Lori D. Atchley, Administrator of Elections