

**Sumner County Election Commission
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 14, 2019**

Members present: Chairman M. Allen Ehmling, Secretary Patricia D. Collins and Members J. Michael Fussell, Jeffery B. Hulsey John W. Smith. Also present: Lori D. Atchley, Administrator of Elections. The meeting convened at 4:10 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 5-0.

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 5-0.

III. Old Business

Approve minutes of the following meetings:

April 9, 2019

Motion to approve by Commissioner Hulsey, second by Commissioner Collins and the motion passed 5-0.

IV. New Business

A. Commissioners present inspected 69 newly processed voter registration applications out of the total registrations of 689 processed as required by statute with no discretions noted. All Commissioners present signed the report.

B. No appeals.

C. Report from Administrator:

AOE stated that the annual TACEO seminar for Administrators was June 2-4 and Commissioners Collins and Smith had requested to attend and the fee of \$325 each had been paid.

AOE along with Chairman Ehmling, Secretary Collins and Member John Smith attended the budget committee on April 18, 2019. AOE had been asked to prepare a payroll analysis of similar sized election commissions in Middle Tennessee along with other Sumner County Departments. Before AOE was allowed to speak or present her analysis that took her and AAOE many hours to compile, Budget Chairman Chris Taylor informed her that the budget committee had already discussed it and they were going to recommend a 7% pay increase along with whatever the county decided for all employees. AAOE would be placed on a salary but no comp time would be paid. AOE explained that the county wide raise was irrelevant – as all employees were receiving that. Commissioner Paul Goode stated that they had to worry about what other departments would think. AOE responded that if other departments were in the same situation as the SCEC, they had a valid argument; otherwise, it was not valid. Commissioner Leslie Schell wanted to discuss possible disparities in benefit

packages. AOE had not been asked to include this. Finance Director David Lawing recommended a payroll analysis just for the SCEC department to establish what the true salaries should be. AOE had met with Lawing the day before and found his analysis skewed. He wanted to discount Wilson County's pay scale which was on the higher end, yet include Montgomery County which had an AAOE that had been there less than ten months. AOE reported that the SCEC employees were still underpaid roughly \$3,500 each. Budget Committee Chairman Taylor promised, for the fourth consecutive year, to address it again next year after entering the SCEC office not once, but twice, assuring the employees it would be addressed this budget year. AOE also reported that budget committee had cut the request for an additional employee due to OVR's and social media boosting registrations, many fraudulent but still must be processed, cut as well as the Hendersonville Lease option for the old Walmart/Sears building, and cut as well as the Professional Traffic Services for the Hendersonville library. The budget committee had decided to hold Early Voting in Hendersonville at the library and at City Hall. This is not within their authority.

AOE discussed Early Voting in Hendersonville and requested guidance from the election commission. Intent was to have voting in Hendersonville for the entire Early Voting period to alleviate the volume at Gallatin. Long term, the Comer barn will be a suitable location for both Hendersonville and Gallatin. The budget committee's short term solution was to pave the area behind the archives for additional parking at the Administration Building, and let Hendersonville residents drive to that location. AOE explained a vacant church was available for purchase around the corner on Long Hollow Pike with 10,000 square feet and an acre lot for \$800,000. AOE stated that you could not buy the land and build the building for that amount. Budget committee elected to spend \$225,000 on paving the lot behind the archives and are considering purchasing three vacant acres behind the archives on an adjacent lot for \$450,000. Chairman Ehmling discussed that the Maples clubhouse might make a good site; although it is not located on a major route and does not have a traffic signal, and continuing to move locations is not a good idea and causes confusion amongst voters. Chairman Ehmling was going to investigate the site and report back to the SCEC. Also, Chairman Ehmling recommended that he and AOE meet with Jamie Clary, Mayor of the City of Hendersonville, to discuss the matter. Commissioner Fussell and Commissioner Smith felt like if we did not have a safe location for voters, they might consider not holding Early Voting in Hendersonville. Secretary Collins made a motion for the Chairman and AOE to meet with Mayor Clary to discuss options, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith and the motion passed 5-0. A member of the audience was asked to be allowed to speak. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Smith and the motion passed 5-0. The person recommended contacting the Public Safety Department of Hendersonville.

AOE concluded the Administrator report.

V. Report From Election Commissioners

Chairman

Chairman Ehmling had no report.

Commissioner Collins commented about a person who complained to the Coordinator of Elections that she was not allowed in a precinct after the polls closed during inclement weather. AOE explained that the practice is to tape the tapes facing outward on the glass doors or windows at each precinct so that the tally tapes are visible after the poll workers leave the precinct to return to the Administration Building with the equipment and tally cards.

VI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Collins 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