

**Sumner County Election Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2021 at 4:00 pm**

Members present: Chairman M. Allen Ehmling, Secretary Patricia D. Collins and Member John W. Smith. Commissioner Fussell arrived at 4:02 p.m. Commissioner Hulseby arrived at 4:31 p.m. Also present: Lori D. Atchley Administrator of Elections, Assistant Administrator of Elections Annette P. Haw and Senior Election Deputy Gay Sutley. The meeting convened at 4:00 p.m. and a quorum was present.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Ehmling with a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Collins and the motion passed 3-0.

II. APPROVE AGENDA

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

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:

Motion by Commissioner Smith seconded by Commissioner Collins to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of December 8, 2020 and the motion passed 3-0.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. INSPECTION – APPEAL PROCESSED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

Four appeals were presented to the Election Commission. In each case, the person registering to vote checked “yes” to the “have you been convicted of a felony?” question. An appeal form was sent to each applicant. Each applicant returned the appeal form and responded that the box was inadvertently marked and that they were not felons. All Commissioners present reviewed the individual appeals, and voted 4-0 to accept each of the applications as valid and to process the applications.

B. INSPECTION – NEWLY PROCESSED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

Commissioners inspected 111 voter registration applications out of 1,101 new registration applications submitted with no discrepancies noted and all commissioners present signed the report to be submitted to the State Election Office.

C. REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATOR

Budget 2021-2022 was presented. Multiple unknowns due to Pending Federal and State Legislation. Largest expense could be requirement to purchase new voting equipment with VVPAT. Budget increased by the equipment purchase of approximately \$1,500,000. Motion by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the budget presented and the motion passed 5 – 0.

Additional precinct analysis was presented. Current TCA allows for 6,000 voters per precinct. In 2020, Election Commissioners approved a waiver for a slightly higher number. Population in Sumner County has continued to grow exponentially. A minimum of an additional three new precincts will be necessary for 2022. Possibly a fourth addition depending on growth between now and the next election. Motion to approve additional precincts by Commissioner Fussell and seconded by Commissioner Smith and the motion passed 5 – 0.

AOE spoke to Coordinator of Elections Mark Goins regarding Convenient Voting Centers. He was not opposed for Sumner. His biggest concern was placement of vote centers relative to traffic. We worked with CTAS who provided maps for the traffic patterns and presented a map with potential CVC locations. Goins stated that there should be forthcoming legislation to allow any county in Tennessee to utilize CVC's. Per current legislation, four specific counties are referred to as pilot programs, and must be renewed each year. Motion to tentatively approve CVC program based on legislation and site availability by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Collins and the motion passed 5-0. AOE to continue to keep SCEC informed as more information becomes available.

AOE provided an update on the Property Rights certification that was necessary for the November 2020 Election. Commissioner Fussell contacted Legislator William Lamberth who contacted the Secretary of State Tre Hargett. Hargett scheduled a telephonic meeting with Commissioner Fussell. Hargett included Coordinator of Elections Mark Goins on the call. Goins maintained no responsibility on behalf of the State Election Office for their failure to include certification documents for Property Rights. AOE stated that all the appropriate files had been uploaded to the State, and certification documents for Property Rights were not included. State Employee sent an e-mail that he "spot checked" election results. AOE contended that was not acceptable. Commissioner Fussell requested that we continue to pursue our representatives to pass Legislation to allow Property Rights to be placed on our main registration system, as

opposed to a free standing unconnected laptop which AOE and AAOE felt led to this situation.

V. REPORT FROM ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

A. CHAIRMAN

Chairman announced that Election Commission positions would be considered in March/April 2021 and each Commissioner should notify him or the appropriate party representatives if they did/did not want to continue to serve.

B. ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

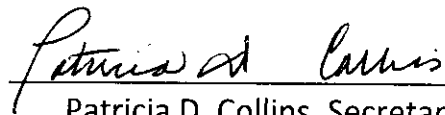
No report.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

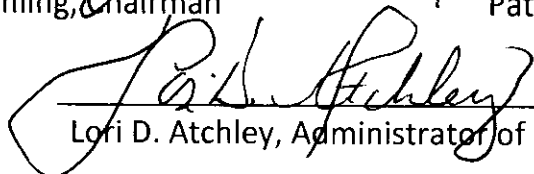
Motion by Commissioner Fussell to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Hulsey and the motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.



M. Allen Ehmling, Chairman



Patricia D. Collins, Secretary



Lori D. Atchley, Administrator of Elections