

**SUMNER COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023, 4:00 P.M.**

Members present: Chairman M. Allen Ehmling; Secretary Denise D. Shepherd; Commissioner Patricia D. Collins; Commissioner J. Michael Fussell; and Commissioner Jeffery B. Hulsey. Also present: Lori D. Atchley, Administrator of Elections and Annette P. Haw, Assistant Administrator of Elections.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Ehmling with a motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Hulsey and the motion passed 5 – 0. A quorum was present.

II. APPROVE AGENDA

Commissioner Fussell made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Hulsey and the motion passed 5 – 0.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one signed up for public comments.

IV. APPROVE MINUTES

A motion to approve the August 9, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Hulsey and the motion passed 5 – 0.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. INSPECTION – APPEAL PROCESSED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

There were no appeals.

B. INSPECTION – NEWLY PROCESSED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

- Commissioners inspected 83 voter registration applications out of 822 new voter applications with no discrepancies noted. Commissioners present signed the report to be submitted to the State Division of Elections.

C. REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATOR

- FACILITY UPDATE

- AOE advised the matter is still unresolved and the SCEC continues to operate in two separate locations. The Chancery Court date is 11/17/ 2023. Our understanding is that the court will decide if County Mayor John Isbell has authority over the buildings. If so, the SCEC will make plans to move the staff and office to 1019 Union School Road. If the court rules the County Commission has authority over the buildings, the County Commission must then provide an alternate single location for the election commission consolidated staff and equipment operation. None has been presented at this point. Regardless, arrangements to assimilate the office and equipment must be made immediately for the 2024 election cycle.

- BUDGET UPDATE

- Status unchanged. AOE stated the budget committee recommended to the County Commission and the County Commission approved an SCEC budget (not the one approved and submitted by the SCEC, but the previous year's SCEC budget 2022 -2023) and that budget passed. AOE does not believe it will be sufficient.

- VOTING MACHINE CASE UPDATE

- AOE reported that the voting machine cases are expected to arrive by the end of September per the manufacturer.

- OTHER

- AAOE has reached out to Gallatin Church as a possible location to replace NorthField Church who would not commit to the 2024 election cycle due to massive remodeling and construction. A response has not yet been received.
- AOE stated that the City of Millersville may have a special election if per TCA the commissioner vacancy is not filled by a 2/3 vote of the remaining four commissioners within 90 days of the vacancy. The next meeting for the City of Millersville is 09/19/2023. The earliest election date determined thus far is 12/5/2023.

- AOE stated that the City of Hendersonville is considering a sales tax referendum to increase the local sale tax in the amount of .25% for the purpose of public safety. Mayor Jamie Clary indicated he wanted to hold the election in October or November of 2023. Due to statutory requirements, including the County Commission's right to decide to request the increase for the entire county, the earliest the election could be held is February 17, 2024, following two readings passed by BOMA and submittal of the language to the SCEC. Due to the timing, the SCEC could vote to hold the referendum with the March 5, 2024 PPP election.

VI. REPORT FROM ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

A. CHAIRMAN

- No Report

B. ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

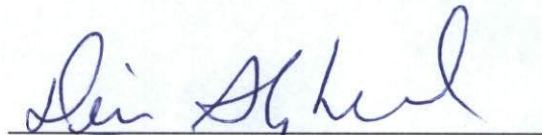
- Commissioner Collins advised that she and Commissioner Shepherd are still working with Dr. Yawn and Dr. Causey to have the required high school registration program permanently added to the school calendar.
- Commissioner Collins also reported that she and Commissioner Shepherd will attend the Gallatin High School Parent Teacher Conference and she had been working with Ms. Johns, the counselor, and Principal Dr. Becker.
- Commissioners Collins and Shepherd will once again be promoting the Anne Dallas Dudley program to encourage high school registrations.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

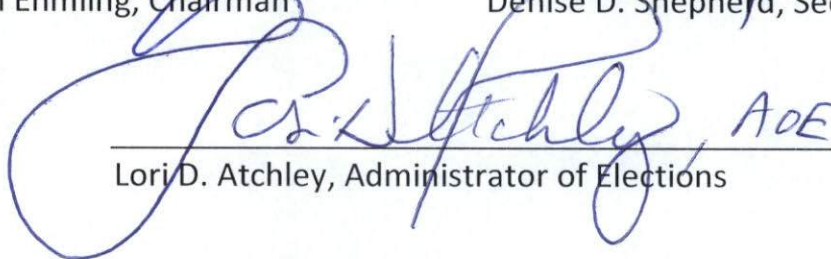
- Motion by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Hulsey to adjourn the meeting and the motion passed 5 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.



M. Allen Ehmling, Chairman



Denise D. Shepherd, Secretary



Lori D. Atchley, Administrator of Elections