

**SUMNER COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 4:00 p.m.**

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

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVE AGENDA

Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Fussell. Commissioner Shepherd made a recommendation to amend the agenda to allow for an Emergency Executive Session upon the arrival of attorney Tom Lee. Commissioner Collins and Commissioner Fussell agreed on the amendment of the agenda and the motion passed 4 – 0.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

IV. APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Ehmling to approve the February 25, 2025, Special Call Meeting Minutes and the motion passed 3-0-1 with Commissioner Fussell abstaining.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. NEW BUSINESS INSPECTION – APPEAL PROCESSED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

There were three appeals. FW, CMB, and BAJ had inadvertently marked “Yes” to the “Have you been convicted of a felony?” declaration question. An appeal form

was mailed to the voters who completed the form that they had not been convicted of a felony. After the Commissioners reviewed the documentation, a motion was made by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Collins to accept the voter registration application of FW and the motion passed 4 – 0 to appropriately register the voter to vote. A motion was made by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Collins to accept the voter registration application of CMB and the motion passed 4 – 0 to appropriately register the voter to vote. A motion was made by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Collins to accept the voter registration application of BAJ and the motion passed 4 – 0 to appropriately register the voter to vote.

B. INSPECTION – NEWLY PROCESSED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

Commissioners inspected 46 voter registration applications out of 454 new registration applications with no discrepancies noted. Commissioners present signed the report to be submitted to the State Division of Elections.

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Fussell made a motion to go into Executive Session with SCEC attorney Tom Lee, seconded by Commissioner Collins and the motion passed 4 – 0. The SCEC regular meeting was suspended at 4:18 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Collins to reconvene the regular meeting at 5:02 p.m. and the motion passed 4 – 0.

C. REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATOR

- FACILITY UPDATE

AOE stated that the County Commission approved a recommendation that Law Director Eric Sitler prepare a proposal to present to the SCEC to relocate the SCEC operations and equipment from 1019 Union School Road to the Archives Building behind 355 N. Belvedere Dr., Gallatin, TN 37066. AOE stated that no proposal had been received by Attorney Tom Lee. AOE also reported that she and AAOE met with the CM on March 10, 2025, to review items in the SCEC storage cage in the warehouse area of the archives. AOE advised there has been no communication between CC ad hoc committee and SCEC in regard to resolving the SCEC permanent location.

- **BUDGET UPDATE**

Finance Department has continued to request correction of negative account balances via funds transfers between SCEC budget account lines. AOE reiterated that the Budget Committee meeting issued instructions that no appropriations or other monies shall be appropriated unless an “emergency,” which was not defined. AAOE has transferred funds to cover negative balances but reiterated there will be a point where there will not be sufficient funds to transfer monies within existing account lines for expenditures that will be due by the end of the fiscal year June 30, 2025.

- **OTHER**

AAOE stated that the SCEC staff was going to contact the Sumner County High School principals directly in regard to scheduling registration opportunities for seniors during lunch periods as required by TCA during the date range of 4/8/2025 – 04/24/2025.

REPORT FROM ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

A. CHAIRMAN

No report.

B. ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Collins advised there was discussion on the Federal level regarding a requirement to require proof of citizenship in order to be able to register to vote. The League of Women Voters had expressed a concern over name changes due to marriage, divorce, etc. that did not match the birth certificate name, and as a group, they were concerned that the requirement might disenfranchise voters.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Collins to adjourn the meeting and the motion passed 4 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.


M. Allen Ehmling, Chairman


Denise D. Shepherd, Secretary


Lori D. Atchley, Administrator of Elections

ABBREVIATION LEGEND:

SCEC: Sumner County Election Commission

SCC: Sumner County Commission

AOE: Administrator of Elections

SCM: Sumner County Mayor

AAOE: Assistant Administrator of Elections