

**SUMNER COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2024, 4:00 P.M.**

Members present: Acting Chairman J. Mike Fussell; Secretary Denise D. Shepherd; and Commissioner Patricia D. Collins. **Members absent:** Chairman M. Allen Ehmling and Commissioner Jeffery B. Hulse. 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 4:46 p.m. by Acting Chairman Fussell. A quorum was present.

II. APPROVE AGENDA

Commissioner Shepherd made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Collins and the motion passed 3 – 0.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one signed up for public comments.

IV. APPROVE MINUTES

A motion by Commissioner Collins and seconded by Commissioner Fussell to approve the: **JANUARY 9, 2024, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES** and the motion passed 3 – 0.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. INSPECTION – APPEAL PROCESSED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

There was one appeal. RPP inadvertently marked “Yes” to “Have you been convicted of a felony?” An appeal form was mailed to the voter 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 Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Collins to accept the voter registration application and appropriately register the voter to vote, and the motion passed 3 – 0.

B. INSPECTION – NEWLY PROCESSED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

Commissioners inspected 104 voter registration applications out of 1,039 new registration 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 SCEC continues to operate in two separate locations. In a recent court ruling, Judge Oliver determined that the county commission did have the right to decide space occupation, but after that, the County Mayor would have oversight of the day-to-day operations. The Judge also left the enjoinder order in place and that the SCC was not to interfere with the elections, to include not requiring the SCEC to move from the building at 1019 Union School Rd. AOE stated that AAOE had purchase orders and other annual contracts rejected

because of a policy change by the SCC. All Commissioners agreed that AOE should reach out to Attorney Lee for his opinion on how to proceed.

- **BUDGET UPDATE**

- The SCEC continues to operate on last year's budget.

- **CERTIFY MARCH 5, 2024 EARLY VOTING AND ELECTION DAY MACHINES**

A motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Collins to move the Machine Certification to the last item on the Agenda before adjournment and the motion passed 3 – 0.

- **OTHER**

AOE notified the SCEC that the vendor who sold the ballot bags we use for absentee and provisional ballots had discontinued the product. Since the new, larger, and heavier voting machines cannot be placed into a bed bound licensed facility voter's lap due to the cord length and the attachment of the VVPAT printer, we will have to vote on paper ballots. A Republican and a Democrat will assist the voter. We are one ballot bag short. If we have an emergency hospitalized voter on Election Day, we will use a Satellite ballot bags, and A. Hollandsworth and the counting board team will note this for the counting board members. Motion to approve this procedure by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Shepherd and the motion passed 3 – 0.

VI. REPORT FROM ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

A. CHAIRMAN

No Report.

B. ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners Shepherd and Collins stated that they were having difficulty getting access to the high schools for the statutorily required voter registration drives. Commissioner Fussell volunteered to contact Jeff Yawn, with the school system, to see about coordinating the visits.

Motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioners Collins to suspend the meeting to go to the voting machine area and the motion passed 3 - 0. The meeting was suspended at 5:14 p.m. The Commissioners went into the warehouse portion of the building. Motion by Commissioner Collins and seconded by Commissioner Shepherd to reconvene the meeting at 5:16 p.m. and the motion passed 3 – 0.

AOE called the seal numbers for the Early Voting and Election Day voting machines. Commissioners present verified the seal numbers called and signed the certification report.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Shepherd to adjourn the meeting and the motion passed 3 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:29 p.m.



Acting Chairman, J. Michael Fussell



Denise D. Shepherd, Secretary

 Lori D. Atchley, Administrator of Elections

ABBREVIATION LEGEND:

SCEC: Sumner County Election Commission
AOE: Administrator of Elections
AAOE: Assistant Administrator of Elections
SCC: Sumner County Commission