

**SUMNER COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 11, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.**

**Members present:** Chairman M. Allen Ehmling; Secretary Patricia D. Collins, Commissioner Denise D. Shepherd. 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 Shepherd, seconded by Commissioner Collins, and the motion passed 3 - 0.

**II. APPROVE AGENDA**

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. APPROVE MINUTES**

Commissioner Shepherd seconded by Commissioner Collins to approve the minutes for the December 14, 2021 meeting and the motion passed 3 - 0.

Motion by Commissioner Collins seconded by Commissioner Shepherd to approve the minutes for the January 4, 2022 special call meeting and the motion passed 3 - 0.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. INSPECTION – APPEAL PROCESSED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS**

One appeal (BTW) was presented to the Election Commission. The applicant registering to vote checked “yes” to the “have you been convicted of a felony?” question. An appeal form was sent to the applicant. The applicant returned the appeal form and responded that the felony box was inadvertently marked and they were not in fact a felon. Motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Shepherd and the motion passed 3-0 to allow the applicant to register.

Commissioner Fussell arrived at 4:06 p.m.

Commissioner Hulseby arrived at 4:08 p.m.

## **B. INSPECTION – NEWLY PROCESSED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS**

Commissioners inspected 39 voter registration applications out of 388 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**

### **RESTRICTING UPDATE**

AOE stated that redistricting had been completed for Sumner County and all municipalities. Final redistricting cannot be completed until the legislature approves the redistricting lines for the House of Representatives and Senate. AOE understands the matter will be considered on January 12, 2022; however, is unsure of the process regarding number of readings required to pass the final plan. AOE understands that there has been discussion of removing the current House District 40 and replace it with House District 35. The result would be that the current Representative would no longer represent Sumner County. Also under consideration is adding a United States Congressman to Sumner County due to overflow from Davidson County. Several states have added and lost seats due to the reapportionment. All of these items will be taken up by the Legislature and once resolved, will notify Sumner County of the final decision.

### **EARLY VOTING SITES**

AOE and Assistant AOE presented a tentative calendar for early voting. One preferred location in Portland (the previous location) has not yet confirmed due to a change in leadership. AAOE has tentatively booked another location. Chairman suggested that the early voting sites be approved for all 2022 elections (May, August, December) as presented with the previous Portland location as the primary site and the alternate if necessary. Motion by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Hulsey to approve the motion as proposed by the Chairman and the motion passed 5-0.

AOE spoke to the League of Women Voters on Saturday, January 8, 2022 via zoom, as the Hendersonville Library was closed due to inclement weather. AOE stated that OVR registration was encouraged over written registrations to avoid written collection of personal information. The League was very receptive. Inquiries were made regarding new legislation, absentee voting and redistricting of the Sumner County Commission districts.

AOE stated that district related petitions were issued beginning January 5, 2022. The original date to issue petitions was December 20, 2021; however, the State Election Office granted an extension due to the Sumner County Commission increasing the number of commission districts from 12 to 24.

AOE stated that the Sumner County Commission had ordered a compensation study that was to be ready by March 1, 2022.

#### IV. REPORT FROM ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

- A. Chairman Ehmling reminded Commissioners that if asked by candidates, petitions cannot be signed by members of the Election Commission and that AOE had covered the matter regarding redistricting approval at the Legislature. Chairman Ehmling inquired as to the status of the purchase of the new voting machines. AOE stated that the purchase of the voting machines was requested to be approved at the November, 2021 budget meeting. The Chairman of the Budget Committee deferred the decision until the December, 2021 meeting, then stated that no action would be taken until Legislation was passed requiring the purchase due to paper audit trail. AAOE stated that the Chairman approximately two weeks earlier had inquired about the time line for the machine purchase. AAOE explained that due to the late date, new voting machines could not be implemented for the May, 2022 election.
- B. Commissioner Fussell stated his appreciation to AAOE for a submitting a report to the Commissioners detailing the hard work completed by the staff, and recommended that the report be signed by the Chairman and distributed to the County Commission.

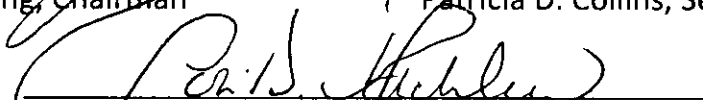
General Discussion about various topics with no motions or votes.

#### V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Fussell and seconded by Commissioner Hulsey to adjourn the meeting, and the motion passed 5 - 0. The meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

  
M. Allen Ehmling, Chairman

  
Patricia D. Collins, Secretary

  
Lori D. Atchley, Administrator of Elections