

**Sumner County Election Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Friday, May 08, 2020 at 2:00 pm**

**Members present:** Chairman M. Allen Ehmling, Secretary Patricia D. Collins and Members J. Michael Fussell, Jeffery B. Hulseley and John W. Smith. Also present: Lori D. Atchley Administrator of Elections and Assistant Administrator of Elections Annette P. Haw. The meeting convened at 2:05 p.m. and a quorum was present. Chairman Ehmling and Member J. Michael Fussell arrived late. The meeting was chaired by Commissioner Smith until the arrival of Chairman Ehmling.

**I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order, motion by Commissioner Hulseley, seconded by Commissioner Collins and the motion passed 3-0.

**II. APPROVE AGENDA**

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

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

Chairman Ehmling arrived at 2:07 p.m.

Approve minutes of April 09, 2020 Regular Meeting and April 20, 2020 Special Call meeting. 2020 Special Call Meeting. March 10, 2020 Regular Meeting and April 1, 2020 Special Call meeting had been approved on April 9, 2020; however due to telephonic meeting were not signed. Those minutes were approved a second time and signed by the respective commissioners and AOE for the permanent file.

Motion to group by Commissioner Hulseley, seconded by Commissioner Collins and the motion passed 4-0.

Commissioner Fussell arrived at 2:09 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Hulseley to approve minutes, seconded by Commissioner Smith and the motion passed 5-0.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**A.** Commissioners present inspected 121 newly processed voter registration applications out of the total registrations of 1,210 as required by statute with no

discretions noted. There were no appeals. All Commissioners present signed the report.

**B. Report from the Administrator**

AOE discussed the impact of the COVID-19 virus on the Election Commission budget. No monies were allotted for the 2019 – 2020 budget and no monies had been submitted for the 2020 – 2021 budget. AOE and AAOE had spent countless hours preparing various scenarios for voting depending on the status of the virus at the time elections are held. The State has made it clear there will be no “ABSENTEE VOTING ONLY” or “ABSENTEE FOR ANY REASON.” The State Election Office stated that each county would receive CARES Stimulus money of \$.50 per voter for the August Election and \$1.00 per voter for the November Election for a total for Sumner of \$174,000 based on our current voter role. These funds are only to be expended on additional voting labor and materials required due to the virus. The county is still responsible for the base cost of the election. AAOE distributed a summary sheet reflecting funding needs of \$296,000, leaving a short fall of \$122,000. AOE stated that she, AAOE and Chairman Ehmling were going to attend the Budget Meeting on May 11, 2020 and discuss options with the committee.

Chairman Ehmling suggested that we include in a new motion an increase in spending from \$150,000 previously approved by the SCEC to \$296,000. Motion by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Collins to authorize spending of \$296,000 for the August and November 2020 Elections, and the motion passed 5-0.

AOE concluded the Administrator report.

**V. REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN**


**A.** The Chairman had no report.


**B.** Commissioner Smith distributed a graph depicting an overall decline in voting in the State of Tennessee. AAOE questioned sourcing as our numbers in Sumner show a steady increase in voter participation. General discussion among commissioners about educating the public regarding voting Absentee. Commissioner Smith suggested weekly ads in Hendersonville and Gallatin. AOE stated there were no funds for advertising. AAOE stated that we already do regular press releases. Chairman Ehmling stated that

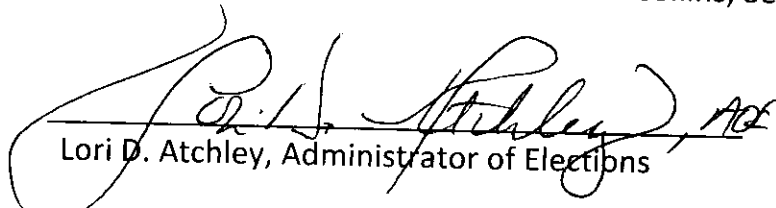
we need to submit as many press releases throughout the county newspapers as they would provide space. Motion by Smith, seconded by Fussell to pursue free outlets to educate voters as to Absentee qualifications and procedures and the motion passed 5-0.

**VI. ADJOURMENT**

Motion by Commissioner Fussell to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Smith and motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.

  
M. Allen Ehmling, Chairman

  
Patricia D. Collins, Secretary

  
Lori D. Atchley, Administrator of Elections