

**SUMNER COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2022 4:03 p.m.**

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

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. by Chairman Ehmling with a motion by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Collins, and the motion passed 4 – 0.

II. APPROVE AGENDA

The agenda was approved with a motion by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Collins, and the motion passed 4 – 0.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. APPROVE MINUTES

Commissioner Fussell made a motion to approve the September 20, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Collins and the motion passed 4 – 0.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. JEFF YAWN, SUMNER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jeff Yawn, the Supervisor of Professional Growth for the Board of Education, spoke regarding voter registration of high school seniors. He offered his assistance in coordinating registration drives with the high schools in Sumner County.

B. INSPECTION – APPEAL PROCESSED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

There was one appeal presented to the Election Commission. The applicant (CS) when attempting to register to vote checked “Yes” to the “Have you been convicted

of a felony?" declaration question. An appeal form was sent to the applicant who returned the form as having inadvertently checked "Yes" to "Have you been convicted of a felony?" All Commissioners present reviewed the documentation presented. Motion by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Collins to find the registration application of CS sufficient to allow them to properly register to vote. The motion passed 4– 0.

C. INSPECTION – NEWLY PROCESSED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

Commissioners inspected 67 voter registration applications out of 662 new applications with no discrepancies noted. Commissioners present signed the report to be submitted to the State Election Office.

D. REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATOR

- OTHER

AOE previously submitted to commissioners a list of name variations for Write-In candidate for City of Portland Mayor, Thomas Dillard. After general discussion, a motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Fussell to approve the list of approved names as attached and the motion passed 4 – 0.

AOE advised that a clarification had been provided by the state regarding addition of other acceptable write-in candidate names spelling variations. Commissioners may approve additional names only at a properly noticed meeting open to the public. The commission has the option to accept only the names as finalized on the approved list, or suspend a meeting through the end of election day counting board duties, and consider and accept additional name spellings. This meeting would be open to the public. Motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Fussell to only accept names on the approved list at today's meeting. The motion passed 4 – 0.

AOE previously provided documentation regarding Sexual and Workplace Harassment training that is required to be completed annually by the Commissioners and the AOE. Commissioner Hulse was not present, and the other commissioners indicated they had not completed the training. Chairman recommended all commissioners complete training, provide the date to the AOE, and sign the required certificate no later than November 21, 2022.

AOE stated that the SCEC was going to be on the budget agenda regarding a \$1,500+ budget deficit in a payroll line for the last fiscal budget year ending June

30, 2022. AOE explained the SCEC had returned more than \$151,000 of SCEC budgeted funds that were not used over the course of the fiscal year. Finance Director David Lawing had requested from the previous commission and was approved to manage minor adjustments to payroll line items. Due to the monthly delay in the finance departments reconciliation of payroll accounts, the deficiency was not disclosed to the SCEC until after the end of the fiscal year, at which time budget transfers were not permitted to correct said deficiencies. The finance director is now attempting to place the blame for the SCEC and other departments within the county's deficiencies on "management" or department heads. AOE stated the failure to properly reconcile and adjust the accounts lies solely in the hands of the finance director, and AOE intends to attend the budget committee and provide the facts and alert the new county commission of Mr. Lawing's actions. Additionally, the election commission's budget was significantly cut by over \$294,000 for part time and election workers, again, at the behest of Finance Director Lawing. The county commission must, by law, properly fund elections. AOE will advise SCEC of the outcome.

V. REPORT FROM ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

A. CHAIRMAN

No report.

B. ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Collins stated that she and Commissioner Shepherd had visited several high schools to perform voter registration drives, and she encouraged other commissioners to participate. Commissioner Collins stated that she was going to coordinate registration drives with Mr. Yawn to get pre-set dates on the school calendar. Commissioner Shepherd inquired as to mileage expenses. AOE stated that mileage would be reimbursed for attendance to registration drives and any election related business. Chairman Ehmling advised a motion would be proper. Commissioner Shepherd made a motion to allow Election Commissioners to be reimbursed for mileage for tasks performed outside of regular SCEC duties. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fussell and the motion passed 4 – 0.

C. CERTIFY VOTING MACHINES

The meeting was suspended by Chairman Ehmling at 4:57 p.m. to transition to the machine voting room to certify the November 8, 2022 voting machines.

The meeting was reconvened at 5:01 p.m. in the machine room.

The Commissioners checked locks and tapes to verify accuracy for machines. Motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Fussell to certify the November 8, 2022 voting machines and the motion passed 4 – 0.

D. ADJOURNMENT


Motion by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Collins to adjourn the meeting, and the motion passed 4 - 0. The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.



M. Allen Ehmling, Chairman



Patricia D. Collins, Secretary



Lori D. Atchley, Administrator of Elections