

**SUMNER COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023, 4:00 P.M.**

**Members present:** Chairman M. Allen Ehmling; Secretary Denise D. Shepherd; Commissioner Patricia D. Collins (arrived at 4:04 p.m.); Commissioner J. Michael Fussell; and Commissioner Jeffery B. Hulse. Also present: Lori D. Atchley, Administrator of Elections (AOE) and Annette P. Haw, Assistant Administrator of Elections (AAOE).

**I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Chairman Ehmling with a motion by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Hulse and the motion passed 4 – 0. (AYE Ehmling, Shepherd, Fussell, Hulse.) A quorum was present.

**II. APPROVE AGENDA**

Commissioner Fussell made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Hulse and the motion passed 4 – 0. (AYE Ehmling, Shepherd, Fussell, Hulse.)

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No one signed up for public comments.

**IV. APPROVE MINUTES**

A motion by Commissioner Fussell to group and approve the following:

**NOVEMBER 16, 2023, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 16, 2023, EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 27, 2023, SPECIAL CALL MEETING MINUTES**

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hulse and the motion passed 4 – 0. (AYE Ehmling, Shepherd, Fussell, Hulse.)

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

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

There were no appeals.

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

Commissioners inspected 51 voter registration applications out of 507 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, and that no ruling had yet been made by Judge Louis Oliver in Chancery Court following the November 17, 2023, court date, thus the matter remains unresolved.

**BUDGET UPDATE**

Status unchanged. The County Commission approved an SCEC budget (not the one approved and submitted by the SCEC, but the previous year's SCEC budget 2022 -2023) and that budget passed. AOE reiterated that the budget approved by the County Commission would not be sufficient. AOE requested guidance from the SCEC regarding critical need for telephone line and security system for 1019 Union School Road SCEC Auxiliary Building. AOE stated that AT&T can provide an IT line and basic security with no contract for approximately \$200 per month. Motion by Commissioner Hulseby and seconded by Commissioner Collins to proceed with the immediate installation of the AT&T basic non contractual package, and further submit an appropriation request to the Sumner County Commission via Finance Department, Budget Committee and full County Commission for AT&T appropriation and additional funding for Comcast contractual permanent line. The motion passed 5 – 0. Commissioners requested AOE consult with attorney Tom Lee regarding legal recommendations for funding per TCA, in tandem with the current lawsuit.

**DECEMBER 19, 2023, MILLERSVILLE SPECIAL ELECTION UPDATE**

AOE reported Early Voting is ongoing. Sumner County participation as of the meeting time was 199 voters.

**HENDERSONVILLE SALES TAX REFERENDUM UPDATE**

AOE stated City of Hendersonville Mayor Jamie Clary wanted to confirm the referendum could be held with the March 5, 2024, PPP. AOE advised the SCEC could make that determination at the December 27, 2023, Special Call Meeting, following the December 24, 2023, 40-day suspension for the Sumner County Commission to determine participation in the Sales Tax Increase.

**APPROVE MARCH 5, 2024, POLL WORKERS**

Motion by Commissioner Fussell and seconded by Commissioner Hulsey to approve the Republican Poll workers with the caveat that AOE and AAOE could make changes if required to fulfill positions vacated for unanticipated circumstances. Motion by Commissioner Shepherd and seconded by Commissioner Collins to approve the Democrat Poll workers with the caveat that AOE and AAOE could make changes if required to fulfill positions vacated for unanticipated circumstances, and the motions passed 5 – 0.

**OTHER**

AOE confirmed Commissioner arrival times for the December 19, 2023, City of Millersville Special Election.

**VI. REPORT FROM ELECTION COMMISSIONERS**

**A. CHAIRMAN**

No report.

**B. ELECTION COMMISSIONERS**

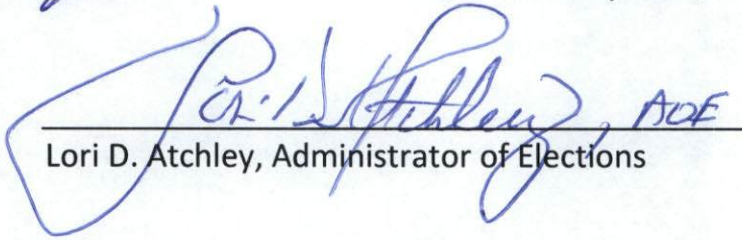
No report.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Commissioner Hulsey, seconded by Commissioner Collins to adjourn the meeting and the motion passed 5 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

  
M. Allen Ehmling, Chairman

  
Denise D. Shepherd, Secretary

  
Lori D. Atchley, Administrator of Elections