

Sumner County Election Commission
Special Call Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2021 at 4:00 pm

Members present: Chairman M. Allen Ehmling, Secretary Patricia D. Collins, Commissioner J. Michael Fussell and recently appointed Democratic Representative Denise Shepherd. Also present: Lori D. Atchley Administrator of Elections, Assistant Administrator of Elections Annette P. Haw and Senior Election Deputy Gay Sutley. The meeting convened at 4:03 p.m. and a quorum was present. All commissioners signed their respective oaths for the position of election commissioner.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. by Chairman M. Allen Ehmling with a motion by Commissioner J. Michael Fussell and seconded by Commissioner Patricia D. Collins and the motion passed 4-0.

II. APPROVE AGENDA

The Agenda was approved with a motion by Commissioner J. Michael Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Patricia D. Collins, and the motion passed 4-0.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. APPROVE FEBRUARY 9, 2021 MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Commissioner J. Michael Fussell seconded by Commissioner Patricia D. Collins to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of February 9, 2021 and the motion passed 3-0. Commissioner Denise Shepherd abstained.

B. ELECT CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY

Commissioner J. Michael Fussell made a motion to elect Republican Representative M. Allen Ehmling as Chairman, M Allen Ehmling seconded and the motion passed 2-0. Denise Shepherd made a motion to elect Democratic Representative Patricia D. Collins as Secretary and the motion passed 2-0. Each respective party voted for the positions.

Commissioner Jeffery B. Hulseby arrived at 4:10 p.m.

C. UPDATE ON RETIRING STAFF MEMBERS

AOE stated that two letters of intent to retire had been received by two current full time staff members. The time frame was September 2021 to December 2021

depending on a TCRS ruling regarding previous school board employment and time applied to retirement for one of the employees. A third employee has also verbally expressed an interest in leaving a full time staff position. This would eliminate 50% of our staff. AOE and AAOE were scheduled for the budget committee meeting held on April 12, 2021 and AAOE had confirmed to be placed on the Agenda to discuss hiring two current part time employees to full time status in order to train them for the soon to be vacated positions. AAOE had a confirmation e-mail from finance that the SCEC was on the agenda. Upon arrival at the budget committee meeting, we were notified that the SCEC had been removed from the agenda, without notice. It is the responsibility of the Finance Director, David Lawing to notify a Department Head of removal from an agenda; however, Mr. Lawing stated the Budget Chair said he would call the AOE – but failed to do so. Mr. Lawing was extremely dismissive and told the committee that he had read the e-mails and the retirement of the employees was many months away and did not need to be addressed at this time. Budget Chairman Chris Taylor allowed AOE to speak; however, no action was taken on hiring new full time employees to train with the retiring employees in preparation for the 2022 election year. AOE spoke to Law Director Leah Dennen and Chairman Ehmling. Course of action to be determined.

D. INSPECTION – APPEAL PROCESSED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

One appeal was presented to the Election Commission. The voter 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 box was inadvertently marked and that they were not a felon. All Commissioners present reviewed the appeal, and a motion was made by Commissioner J. Michael Fussell and seconded by Commissioner Patricia D. Collins to accept the application as valid and to process the voter registration application and the motion passed 5–0.


E. INSPECTION – NEWLY PROCESSED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

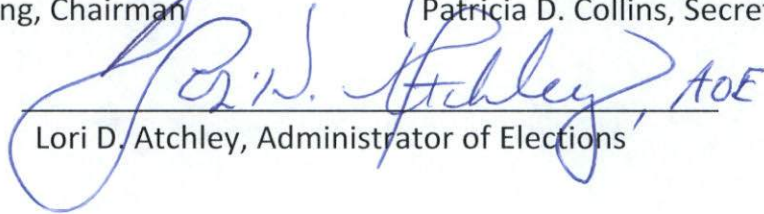
Commissioners inspected 116 voter registration applications out of 1,155 new registration applications submitted with no discrepancies noted and all commissioners present signed the report to be submitted to the State Election Office.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner J. Michael Fussell to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Jeffery B. Hulsey and the motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.


M. Allen Ehmling, Chairman


Patricia D. Collins, Secretary


Lori D. Atchley, Administrator of Elections