

**SUMNER COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
SPECIAL CALL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2024, 1:00 P.M.**

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

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Acting Chairman Fussell.

II. APPROVE AGENDA

Commissioner Hulse made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Shepherd and the motion passed 3 – 0.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

IV. APPROVE MINUTES

- August 16, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes
- August 28, 2024, Quasi-Judicial Hearing Minutes

Motion to group and approve by Commissioner Hulse, seconded by Commissioner Shepherd and the motion passed 3-0.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. INSPECTION – APPEAL PROCESSED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

None

B. INSPECTION – NEWLY PROCESSED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS

Commissioners inspected 121 voter registration applications out of 1,206 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

- RESIDENCY CHALLENGE IN REGARD TO LASHONDA JONES

AOE stated that the transcript had been ordered at the request of the District Attorney Ray Whitley and would be delivered to him upon completion.

- AUGUST 24, 2024, REPUBLICAN CAUCUS RESULTS

AOE stated that Eric M. Craddock was the successful candidate for the Republican Nominee for Sheriff.

- APPROVE NOVEMBER 5, 2024, GENERAL ELECTION CANDIDATES WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SHERIFF AND THE GALLATIN SALES TAX REFERENDUM

AOE explained that there was a delay with the Office of Sheriff due to the statutory withdrawal deadline, and per statute, the CC has 40 days due to decide if they want to participate in the City of Gallatin Sales Tax Increase, which has a deadline of September 29, 2024. The SCEC decided to wait to approve all candidates at the meeting following the deadline.

- FACILITY UPDATE

AOE stated that the CC Ad Hoc committee had planned an inspection of the SCEC Auxiliary Building at 1019 Union School Road for September 17, 2024, at NOON. AOE had not been officially notified by the Committee Chair Klein, nor the Law Director Sitler, but stated that the facility would be available on that date at that time. AOE to reach out to Law Director Sitler to confirm the details. This inspection is in advance of the Chancellor Judge scheduled update hearing on September 19, 2024, regarding the parties reaching an agreement as to the permanent location of the SCEC staff and equipment. SCEC directed AOE to contact Tom Lee, attorney, and Bill Whitehead, Microvote Representative, to attend the tour. AOE advised that SCM Isbell had informed her that The CC Ad Hoc committee planned to propose that the SCEC staff remain in the current location at 355 N, Belvedere Dr, Room 106, and move the equipment to the rear warehouse area of the archive building. AOE advised that the SCEC would still be

operating out of two locations. SCM also advised that the Ad Hoc committee discussed cancelling Convenient Vote Centers as well as limiting Early Voting locations to only the minimum statutory requirements, and to split those days between Hendersonville and Gallatin. AOE advised that this was not the decision of the CC, but rather the SCEC. Acting Chairman Fussell directed the AOE to advise attorney Tom Lee to summarize the behavior of the CC at the September 19, 2024, hearing, believed and interpreted to be Election Interference.

- **BUDGET**

AOE deferred to AAOE who stated that due to the CC's arbitrary line-item cuts to the SCEC approved budget, there were already short falls in the travel budget, and also anticipated multiple short falls in legal notices and other account items. AAOE reached out to Finance Director Lawing as to how to manage the shortages. He did not respond.

- **OTHER**

AOE stated that the State Division of Elections Performance audit, for which Sumner was selected to participate with two other counties for the August 1, 2024, election, had originally been scheduled by AOE for September 12, 2024. Due to the death of the Sheriff, the subsequent caucus and convention; the issues surrounding the District 8 School Board race; the Quasi-Judicial hearing for the City of Gallatin Alderman At-Large matter; the City of Gallatin sales tax referendum awaiting a decision as to participation by the full CC; the City of Millersville delayed qualifying deadline to the Anti-Skulduggery Act; and the staff shortage due to a full time staff member absence on FMLA, the audit was postponed until November 12, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

VI. REPORT FORM ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

A. CHAIRMAN

None

B. ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

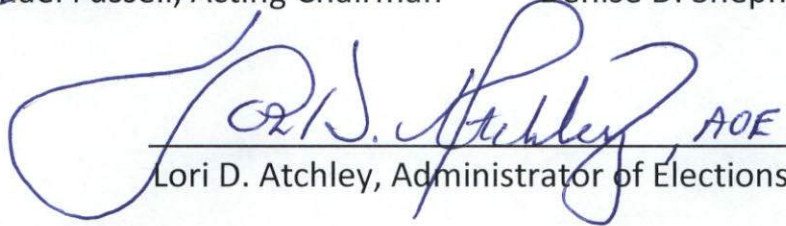
Motion by Commissioner Hulsey, seconded by Commissioner Shepherd to adjourn the meeting and the motion passed 3 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.



J. Michael Fussell, Acting Chairman



Denise D. Shepherd, Secretary



Lori D. Atchley, Administrator of Elections

ABBREVIATION LEGEND:

SCEC: Sumner County Election Commission
AOE: Administrator of Elections
AAOE: Assistant Administrator of Elections

SCC: Sumner County Commission
SCM: Sumner County Mayor