

**SUMNER COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, December 10, 2024, 4:00 p.m.**

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

**I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Ehmling with a motion by Commissioner Hulsey, seconded by Commissioner Collins and the motion passed 5 - 0. A quorum was present.

**II. APPROVE AGENDA**

Commissioner Hulsey made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Collins and the motion passed 5 - 0.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**IV. APPROVE MINUTES**

Motion by Commissioner Hulsey, seconded by Commissioner Collins to approve the November 21, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes and the motion passed 5 - 0.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

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

There were no appeals.

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

Commissioners inspected 42 voter registration applications out of 420 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 stated that the ad hoc committee appointed by the CC to make recommendations regarding the permanent location of the SCEC met on December 9, 2024, and once again did not extend an invitation to the SCEC. The December 9, 2024, Ad Hoc meeting was posted December 6, 2024, and was discovered inadvertently. Chairman Ehmling was in attendance. AOE stated that the warehouse facility in the rear of the archives was actually less than 5,000 SF usable footage versus 7,000 SF included in ad hoc report that includes HVAC room, other electrical and mechanical rooms, hallways into the archives, bathrooms and other footage that is unusable by the SCEC. Also, the report included two bay doors for access when there is actually only one bay door. Ad Hoc Committee Commissioners Klein and Mansfield were insistent that machines could be a one-person lift to justify the voting machines being stored vertically versus on tables as currently situated. AOE made the point that there were 275 machines, and a single person lift for that number of machines is not practical. AAOE added that the cost stated to move proposed by Law Director Eric Sitler, which was to be provided to the Judge, was \$120,000 based on the SCEC submittal for an SCEC move to 1019 Union School Road.

### **- BUDGET UPDATE**

Finance Department has continued to request correction of negative account balances via funds transfers between account lines. AOE sent email to Finance Director Lawing that no funds were available for transfers, as the CC cut the SCEC approved budget per the recommendation of the Finance Director and Law Director, and the Finance Department and CC needed to determine how to address the matter. Furthermore, the Budget Committee meeting has issued instruction that no appropriations or other monies shall be transferred from other accounts unless an "emergency," which was not defined. Finance Director requested AOE attend the budget meeting to clarify position, and that pending litigation regarding permanent location was not relevant to budget matter. AOE stated to SCEC that failure of CC to pay expenses and staff, poll

worker payroll and comp time payout earned to properly fund an election was a violation of State Law, and that no further clarification was necessary.

- **OTHER**

None

**VI. REPORT FROM ELECTION COMMISSIONERS**

**A. CHAIRMAN**

Chairman Ehmling stated that he attended the Ad Hoc Committee meeting, but did not speak. Ad Hoc Committee voted to revise a proposal to be submitted to the CC on which they would vote.

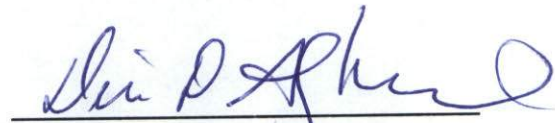
**B. ELECTION COMMISSIONERS**

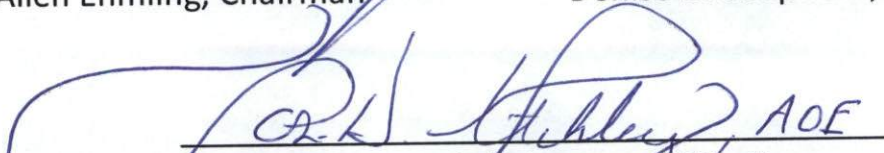
Commissioners Collins deferred to AAOE about high school registration requirements per TCA. AAOE stated that contact through the Director of Schools Scott Langford and Facilitator Jeff Yawn upon several requests by Commissioners Collins, Shepherd and Fussell regarding in-person school visits had not been scheduled and needed to be completed by calendar year-end. AAOE stated that registration packets including registration applications and QR codes for online registration had been delivered to each high school along with a request for distribution via home room, government or civic teachers or the counselor in order to distribute these accordingly.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Commissioner Fussell, seconded by Commissioner Hulsey to adjourn the meeting and the motion passed 5 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

  
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M. Allen Ehmling, Chairman

  
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Denise D. Shepherd, Secretary

  
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Lori D. Atchley, Administrator of Elections

**ABBREVIATION LEGEND:**

SCEC: Sumner County Election Commission

SCC: Sumner County Commission

AOE: Administrator of Elections  
AAOE: Assistant Administrator of Elections

SCM: Sumner County Mayor