

SHELBY COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 16, 2015

APPROVED

The Regular Meeting of the Shelby County Election Commission was held on April 16, 2015 at 4:00 PM at the Election Operations Center, 980 Nixon Drive. All Commissioners were present except Commissioner Nollner.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Meyers at 4:08 p.m.

ELECTION COMMISSION ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

All Shelby County Election Commissioners have submitted their oaths to the state. Next order of business is to elect a chair and secretary. Commissioner Stamson moved to nominate Robert Meyers as chairman for the next two years. Commissioner Lester seconded. There was no discussion. Commissioners voted unanimously to elect Robert Meyers as chairman of the Shelby County Election Commission for the next two years. Next order of business is to select a secretary. The Secretary has to be a member of the minority party, and in this instance would be the Democratic party. Commissioner Tate moved to nominate Norma Lester. Robert Meyers seconded the nomination. No discussion. Commissioner Lester was unanimously elected secretary of the Shelby County Election Commission for the next two years.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 18, 2015 COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Stamson moved to approve the March 18, 2015 minutes and Commissioner Lester seconded. March 18, 2015 minutes were unanimously approved.

OPERATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE REPORT - ATTACHED

Given by Commissioner Stamson for Commissioner Nollner.

There were 2 resolutions regarding consolidation precincts, but Commissioner Nollner had requested of Mr. Holden to hold these until the next committee meeting.

Commissioner Nollner inquired if the new DSL line enable an additional Early Voting site. She requested the change of precinct notices be mailed as soon as possible and requested a quote on security cameras for both SCEC sites before any requests for funds was made to the County Commission.

VCS/HR COMMITTEE REPORT – ATTACHED

Given by Commissioner Stamson

Chairman Meyers asked about the concerns surrounding the appointment of Mr. Ryan as the Voting Machine Technician and asked if we needed attorney's opinions. Commissioner Lester explained that the concern regarding Mr. Ryan's appointment was due to his wife being an elected county judge in General Sessions Court Division 12, but as she will not be running for another 7 years it was not believed to be conflict. Commissioner Lester introduced Mr. Ryan to the Commission. Attorney Hagler also confirmed that input was received from the state coordinator's office stating that there were no legal rules regarding a conflict of interest but cautioned to avoid the appearance of any impropriety. Commissioner Lester stated they would like to move forward with the appointment and moved to appoint Mr. LaFerre Ryan as the Democratic Voting Machine Technician for Shelby County. Commissioner Tate seconded. There was no discussion. The Democratic commissioners voted to appoint Mr. LaFerre Ryan as the Democratic Voting Machine Technician for Shelby County. Chairman Meyers congratulated Mr. Ryan upon his appointment and welcomed him to the SCEC team.

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ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Ryder reported that Division 9 of Circuit Court granted the motion to recuse and has now notified the chief judge of the 30th judicial district that all of the chancellors and circuit judges have declined to take the case. He has sent a letter to the administrator of courts to assign a special judge. Once a special judge is assigned the motions to dismiss can be presented. Chairman Meyers clarified that this was the case involving Joe Brown and Mr. Ryder confirmed it was and is the only piece of litigation pending.

ADMINISTRATOR OF ELECTIONS REPORT - ATTACHED

Given by Mr. Holden

Commissioner Lester felt that the Commission had been extremely generous with the two candidates that had not complied with the CFD filings and requested if they still have not complied, Mr. Dow report their names to Drew Rawlins at the state.

Commissioner Lester and Chairman Meyers spoke with Mr. Holden about scheduling time with the new party chairs to come to the Election Commission, tour the facility and learn how the SCEC works and what information is available to them from the SCEC.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Citizen Petitions have been submitted to the SCEC requested questions be placed on the ballot on Election on November 8, 2015. There is no such election scheduled, under TCA 2-5-151 the issue would have to be on the ballot on the next County general election which would be in August, 2016. Mr. Ryder feels the petition is defective and they should come back next year. Statute requires we return the petition to them and advise them of the defects.

Commissioner Stamson would like for the Election Commission to recognize IT and the outstanding job they have done in working with the SCEC to ensure the voter data is correct regarding ballots. Chairman Meyers agreed and asked Mrs. Crosno to draft a letter for him and Commission Stamson to review.

Chairman Meyers requested an update from Mr. Young regarding the RFQ. There had been some discussion among the commissioners regarding criminal background checks on the vendors for this project. There are no legal impediments to this request; however, it will require a new scorecard process and potentially, starting totally from the beginning. Mr. Young had requested input from the commissioners regarding the timeline and any items to be included on the scorecard. He has also tentatively scheduled the scoring for April 24. Commissioner Stamson feels that since we did not originally include a security background check, we should either go forward without it or start completely over. Commissioner Lester also feels strongly we should move forward with this project. Commissioners instructed Mr. Young to proceed with the proposed timeline and move the project forward as quickly as possible.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

In response to Commissioner Lester's request to combine all commission meetings on one day, Chairman Meyers proposes that there be a trial period with the committee meetings commencing at 3:00 and proceeding forward from there. Commissioner Lester inquired as the meetings having to be on a Wednesday or could they be moved to Thursday to accommodate our attorney and Commissioner Stamson state Thursday would work better for him. Without objection, Commissioners agreed to move the meeting date to Thursday so the next meeting schedule will be:

Ops/Tech Committee Meeting – Thursday, May 21, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.
VCS/HR Committee Meeting – Thursday, May 21, 2015 at 3:30 p.m.

Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting:
Thursday, May 21, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Stamson moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Lester seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Others in attendance:

Rich Holden, Administrator
Joe Young, Deputy Administrator
Dan Dow, VCS Manager
Darral Brown, Ops Manager
Pam Crosno, Staff
Monice Hagler, Attorney
Carlos Bibbs, Attorney
John Ryder, Attorney
Pablo Varela, Attorney
Suzanne Thompson
Rose Bradley