

MINUTES OF MEETING
Monday, January 27, 2014

Call to order:

Upon notice duly given, Chairman Walden called to order a called meeting of the Hamilton County Election Commission at 9:15 a.m. on January 27, 2014 at the office of the Hamilton County Election Commission, 700 River Terminal Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Invocation: Commissioner Braly

Pledge of Allegiance: Commissioner Crangle

Present at Meeting:

Commissioners Walden, Summers, Braly, Crangle, and Scott were present at the meeting, as well as members of the public, county employees, members of the media, and staff of the Election Commission.

New Business:

Members of the public attended the meeting asking for approval to circulate a petition to recall District 7 City Commissioner Chris Anderson.

Chairman Walden stated that the meeting today was called for the specific purpose of interviewing candidates for the Administrator of Elections position. He asked the group to return on February 13 at 8 a.m. for the next regularly scheduled meeting and in the meantime the commission had some questions about the petition they would ask Beth Henry-Robertson at the State Elections office.

Secretary Summers stated that per Assistant Administrator Allen the deadline to add items to the August ballot is April 10 and per the state law the people collecting signatures are entitled to 75 days to collect signatures. If the petition is not approved until February 13, the group will not have the full 75 days to gather signatures before the April 10 deadline.

Charlie Wysong stated that he would like the petition approved immediately so his group could have the full 75 days to collect signatures.

Chairman Walden asked when is the last day we can act and give you the full 75 days?

Assistant Administrator Allen said 75 days from today is April 11, so the group would not have the full 75 days regardless of when the petition is approved.

Attorney Taylor stated that the commission could not take up additional business at this meeting because it was scheduled for the sole purpose of conducting interviews for the Administrator position.

Commission Walden stated that the petition would be added to the agenda for the regular February meeting on February 13, 2014.

The commission then began to interview the eight finalists for the Administrator of Elections position.

The candidates were interviewed in approximately 30 minutes increments in the following order: Jules Duox, Michael Kirk, Patrick McFadden, Sharon Moody, Sherry Moss, Louise Patterson, Kerry Steelman, and David Torbett.

After interviews, the commission began an executive session for the purpose of narrowing down the candidates. After the executive session, the commission returned to an open meeting.

Hamilton County Election Commission—Minutes of Meeting, January 27, 2014, Page 2

Commissioner Braly made a motion to extend an offer of employment to Kerry Steelman.

Secretary Summers seconded the motion.

During discussion, **Chairman Walden**, **Secretary Summers**, and **Commissioner Braly** all said it was hard to make a decision between candidates, all were well-qualified.

Chairman Walden suggested that the names of the three runners-up be kept on hand in case Kerry Steelman was unable to accept the position. Then, the commission could revisit these three rather than begin the process again. Those three were: Michael Kirk, Jules Doux, and Patrick McFadden.

Chairman Walden called for the vote and it was unanimous between the four commissioners who were present, Commissioner Scott having left earlier in the meeting.

Secretary Summers then made a motion that in addition to notifying Steelmen, Chairman Walden also notify the other seven candidates immediately, before a news release is issued.

Commissioner Braly seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

Jerry Summers

Secretary

Michael S. Walden

Chairman

Ruth Braly

Commissioner

Tommy Crangle

Commissioner

Kelvin Scott

Commissioner