

**SHELBY COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION  
SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 7, 2020**

A special meeting of the Shelby County Election Commission was held electronically on May 7, 2020.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION CALLED TO ORDER:** By Chairman Stamson at 4:04pm

**SPECIAL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** By Chairman Stamson at 5:37pm

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Commissioners Uhlhorn, Taylor, Smith and Tate

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Linda Phillips, AOE  
Joe Young, DAOE  
Stacy Scott, staff  
Attorney Ryder  
Attorney Varela  
Attorney Hagler  
Stephen Wingo, IT  
Suzanne Thompson

**PUBLIC MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** By Commissioner Stamson at 5:37pm.

**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 12, 2020 MINUTES**

MOTION STATED: Commissioner Uhlhorn made a motion to approve the minutes  
SECONDED BY: Commissioner Tate  
OUTCOME OF MOTION: Passed, Commissioner Smith abstained

**APPROVAL OF MARCH 23, 2020 MINUTES**

MOTION STATED: Commissioner Uhlhorn made a motion to approve the minutes  
SECONDED BY: Commissioner Tate  
OUTCOME OF MOTION: Passed, Commissioner Smith abstained

**APPROVAL OF APRIL 1, 2020 MINUTES**

MOTION STATED: Commissioner Uhlhorn made a motion to approve the minutes  
SECONDED BY: Commissioner Tate  
OUTCOME OF MOTION: Passed, Commissioner Smith abstained

**APPROVAL OF APRIL 23, 2020 MINUTES**

MOTION STATED: Commissioner Uhlhorn made a motion to approve the minutes  
SECONDED BY: Commissioner Tate  
OUTCOME OF MOTION: Passed, Commissioner Smith abstained

Commissioner Taylor asked Attorney Ryder to explain the RFP process. Attorney Ryder stated that the Election Commission was advised by TN law, Purchasing, the County Attorney and the TN Open Records Policy that the details of the RFP cannot be released until after the public discussion. The County Mayor cannot sign the Letter of Intent to Award until after the SCEC has deliberated and issued the Letter of Intent. After the Mayor signs the letter then the details can be released to the public. The SCEC and attorneys were unsuccessful getting this information released prior to this meeting.

**PRESENTATION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR NEW VOTING EQUIPMENT:**

AOE Linda Phillips recommended purchasing Ballot Marking Devices. Vendor #1 was scored the highest and offered the best equipment for the needs of Shelby County. Over the life of the equipment (10+ years) the overall cost was \$9 million less than the hand marked paper ballot option.

**PRESENTATION BY COMMISSIONER SMITH:**

Voiced his disapproval of AOE Phillips speaking at the County Commission regarding voter errors on paper ballots. He cited his own studies on voter errors and voter fraud. Stated that national groups are concerned about election security.

AOE Phillips responded that she is advocating for a system that makes every vote count equally.

**DISCUSSION:**

Commissioner Taylor asked Attorney Ryder and AOE Phillips to speak on the media reports of conflicts of interest. Ryder stated his relationship is strictly landlord/tenant. Phillips stated she has never worked for an election vendor nor receive any benefit.

Commissioner Smith spoke on his findings on hand marked paper ballots, voter fraud and security.

Deputy AOE Young spoke on election security and that the greatest threat is not at the voting machine. There is no evidence an election outcome has changed because of voting machine tampering. Stated our democracy is under threat to undermine our confidence in the process.

Discussion and questions by commissioners followed. Pros and cons of all options were discussed. Commissioner Taylor suggested a hybrid solution that would allow voters who wish to vote on a paper ballot to do so. This would keep in the spirit of the County Commission resolution and allow those voters who wish to vote on paper to do so.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

All written and call in comments were heard.

**MOTION STATED:**

Motion by Commissioner Taylor to adopt the AOE's recommendation for a hybrid voting system of ballot marking devices with a paper ballot option by company 1.

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Uhlhorn

OUTCOME OF MOTION: Commissioners were polled and voted:

Taylor – yes

Uhlhorn – yes

Tate – yes

Smith – no

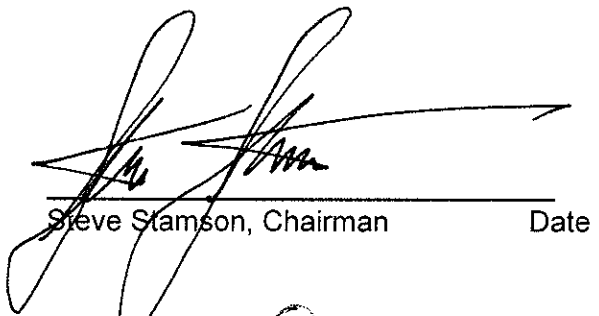
Samson – yes

MOTION PASSED

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Commissioner Tate made a motion to adjourn at 9:20pm.

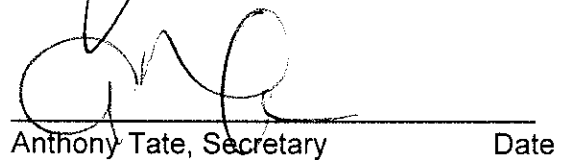
Seconded by Commissioner Uhlhorn.



A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Samson', is written over a horizontal line.

Steve Samson, Chairman

Date



A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Tate', is written over a horizontal line.

Anthony Tate, Secretary

Date