

**Committee of County Officers Designated
To Fill a Board of Supervisors Vacancy**

Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Iowa
Wednesday, April 6, 2016 1:00 p.m.

The Committee met in the informal boardroom at the Jean Oxley Linn County Public Service Center. Present: Recorder Joan McCalmant (Chair); Auditor Joel Miller, Treasurer Sharon Gonzalez. Committee members voting "AYE" unless otherwise noted.

McCalmant called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Motion by Miller, seconded by Gonzalez, to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 4, 2016.

Gonzalez requested that her deputy, Sara Bearrows, be added to the BOSvacancy email distribution list.

Miller discussed a social media exchange between him and Supervisor Oleson, a printed copy of which he distributed to the committee. He also shared a printed copy of an email exchange he had with Stacey Walker. He indicated that he read Mr. Oleson's comments to imply that Ms. McCalmant and Ms. Gonzalez had already decided to appoint Mr. Walker to the vacancy, and he asked them to respond. Ms. McCalmant advised that she has not made a decision and has never met Mr. Walker. She indicated that she is committed to the process they have before them as Committee members. Ms. Gonzalez responded that she also has not made up her mind and noted that she met Mr. Walker at Rotary several weeks ago; however, she has had no substantive conversations with him. One member of the public has approached her to express his support for Mr. Walker; she advised that individual that she appreciated his comments but that she is committed to the process and to her responsibilities as a member of the Committee. Miller also asked if any member of the Board of Supervisors had spoken to them about the vacancy; McCalmant and Gonzalez both advised that Mr. Oleson had. Miller also indicated that he has not made up his mind about an appointment.

The Committee discussed the questions to be compiled to be asked of each applicant. Gonzalez distributed a set of questions she had developed, tweaking some of those provided by Dubuque County and adding some of her own. Miller also distributed a set of questions he had prepared.

Motion by Miller, seconded by Gonzalez, that the questions eventually settled upon by the Committee be provided to all applicants at least 24 hours in advance of the interviews. The Committee agreed each interview would likely last 60-90 minutes. The Committee also agreed to use a 5-point scale in rating the applicants.

Motion by Miller, seconded by Gonzalez, that the Committee give preference to a female applicant if that applicant is as qualified as any other so that the Board of Supervisors is not composed of men only. Miller noted the departing Board member is a female and the electorate is 51% female.

Motion by Miller, seconded by Gonzalez, that the Committee not interview and not select any applicant already on the primary ballot. Miller advised that he believed the power of incumbency would prove to be an advantage in the primary election. McCalmant responded that she is uncomfortable excluding people; while she is not advocating for anyone in particular she does want to identify the best person for the position. Gonzalez agreed that it would be best to consider all applicants and indicated she hoped Mr. Hogan would apply.

VOTE: Miller – Aye McCalmant, Gonzalez – Nay

Motion by Miller, seconded by Gonzalez, that the Committee give preference to a minority or veteran applicant if that applicant is as qualified as any other.

Motion by Miller, seconded by Gonzalez, that the Committee give preference to applicants who have resided in the second district for at least 60 days. He advised that he submitted this motion as a result of the opinion issued by Jarvis that, upon further review of the Iowa Code, any Linn County resident could apply for the vacant second district Supervisor position; however, that person would have to become a resident of the second district prior to being sworn in.

Miller questioned Jarvis as to whether the Human Resources department was prepared to accept the applications through its website; Jarvis indicated he believed it was.

The Committee agreed to meet at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 19, in the informal boardroom to review applications. Jarvis advised that the Notice of Intent to Appoint to Fill Vacancy in Linn County Supervisor District 2 would need to be published not less than 4 days nor more than 20 days prior to that meeting. It was agreed that Chairperson McCalmant would reach out to Human Resources to request that it take responsibility for scheduling the interviews. Due to members' scheduling conflicts, the Committee agreed its work needed to be finished by April 26.

The Committee discussed beginning the interviews on April 20, after the meeting to review applications on the 19th. Jarvis indicated that another meeting prior to April 19 would probably be necessary to agree on and finalize the questions which the Committee had already agreed to make available at least 24 hours in advance of the interviews. Jarvis noted that the Committee may also want to discuss how it plans to implement the preference system previously agreed to with the rating system that had also been agreed to. The Committee will meet for those purposes at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13, in the informal boardroom.

McCalmant advised the Committee that April 20, the date they had selected to conduct the interviews, is the date of the State of the County luncheon. It was agreed to begin the interview process at 2:00 p.m. on that day, with interviews scheduled every 90 minutes, and continue into the evening or into the next day if necessary.

The meeting was opened to public comment. Kevin Kula, Coggon, IA, inquired as to why a special election was not being considered rather than the appointment process and if the cost of a special election would be borne only by residents of the second district. Miller informed him the entire county would bear the cost of an election. He was also informed that the Committee had decided on appointment to fill the vacancy but that a petition process was available to the residents of the second district.

Brent Oleson, 6751 Arrow Point Ct., Marion, IA, advised the Committee that he uses his personal social media accounts to express his personal opinions, and to insinuate that his expressed personal opinion meant anything more than that is unfair. He noted that the Board of Supervisors has no formal role in this process and he would hope that the Committee would be open to communication from any citizen.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.