

12/19/2022

County Supervisor Vacancy Committee

1:30 p.m.

County Auditor Eric Van Lancker introduced himself and thanked everyone for joining the meeting. He introduced the other committee members, County Treasurer Dustin Johnson and County Recorder Scott Judd. He explained the purpose for the meeting was to discuss the next step to proceed with the appointment to the Board of Supervisors. Van Lancker said that the deadline for folks to submit letters of interest was last Friday, December 16. He thanked the eight folks that submitted letters of interest. Letters of interest were received from Mike Brown, Stacey Bussie, Steve Cundiff, Erin George, Dennis Lauver, Ronald Mussman, William Peart and Jack Wenzel.

Van Lancker asked the members of the committee how they would like to proceed.

Johnson said he would recommend moving up the date of appointment so that there would be a full Board of Supervisors when the new year started.

Van Lancker said with vacations and time-off over the next two weeks plus the need to have proof of publication of all meeting, it would be very difficult to meet again before the first of the year.

Judd said he felt there were two options to consider to proceed with interviewing the applicants:

Option 1: schedule a meeting with all applications in a group/forum session

Option 2: each committee member schedule time to talk with each application individually

Johnson said he liked the idea to meet as a group.

Van Lancker said that meeting would take approximately 2 to 3 hours, which might be difficult to determine a time that would work for all committee members and applicants.

Judd questioned how it would work with all applicants at one time. Van Lancker said bringing in all applicants in and ask a pre-determined set of questions.

Judd said to interview each applicant might be difficult. Van Lancker suggested possibly doing two groups of four applicants.

Johnson said individual interviews would be best rather than another scheduled event that would delay the decision. He still would like to have full functional Board to start off the new year.

Van Lancker said he would agree with either option. Individually would work as we could reach out to them, however we are taking more of their time. He would also support a group setting, as it would offer the public an opportunity to see the candidates and their views.

Johnson asked what the schedule would look like if they did the group interviews.

Dates were and schedules were discussed. It was agreed it would be difficult to select and publish an appointment before Dec. 24.

Van Lancker suggested ideas for a group interview.

Judd said after discussing the options to proceed, he prefers in-person individual interviews.

Johnson said he prefers phone calls to the applicants.

Judd asked if the committee members should come up with questions, so that they covered the same information.

Van Lancker said he already has questions that he would ask each candidate.

Judd asked how many questions would each candidate need to answer. He was leaning more toward the individual interviews, as that appears to be looking like it would be easier.

Johnson said individual conversations would work for both the applicant and the committee member.

MOTION by Johnson to proceed with individually interviewing each of the 8 applicants by phone or in person.

ROLL CALL

Van Lancker: Yes

Johnson: Yes

Judd: Yes

MOTION CARRIED.

Van Lancker said he would get the notice published for Saturday. A petition for a special election can be turned in 14 days after publication or 14 days after the committee makes an appointment. The petition for a Special Election requires 1,699 signatures.

Johnson said Dec. 27 should be avoided for in-person interviews and the afternoon of Dec. 28 was not good for him.

Van Lancker and Judd agreed. They both agreed that the next two days would work, Dec. 20 and 21. If a candidate wanted to meet tomorrow sooner, please feel free to contact us.

Johnson said Dec. 29 and 30 were also open for all committee members, if needed.

Van Lancker asked how the Jan. 4 appointment date would go. He suggested each committee member come up with their top 3 candidates, scoring them on a point basis.

Johnson said that they would bring in one candidate, see how that goes and then discuss how a selection will be made.

Van Lancker said the person appointed has 10 days to take the oath to qualify. That process can be prepped and ready for the Jan. 4 afternoon so that the appointment applicant can be ready and join their first Board meeting on the Jan. 9.

Judd asked who could issue the oath. Van Lancker said that he could issue the oath or they could schedule arrangements with a judge.

Van Lancker said that the appointed person would fill the vacancy until the next county wide election, unless a special election is petitioned for. He asked if there were any questions from those attending the meeting.

Swati Dandekar, Linn County resident, asked if there were any women candidates. Van Lancker indicated that there was one female.

Van Lancker reminded candidates to contact them or if not, the committee members will be contacting you to schedule an interview time.

Van Lancker thanked those in attendance and adjourned the meeting at 2:02 p.m.