

May 4, 2021

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
COUNTY OF DAKOTA)
OFFICE OF COUNTY BOARD)

Call To Order And Roll Call

Commissioner Mike Slavik
Commissioner Kathleen A. Gaylord
Commissioner Laurie Halverson
Commissioner Joe Atkins
Commissioner Liz Workman
Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg
Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland

Also in attendance were: Matt Smith, County Manager; Tom Donely, First Assistant County Attorney; and Jeni Reynolds, Sr. Administrative Coordinator to the Board.

Due to the local state of emergency and social distancing, Commissioners participated in this meeting in a hybrid manner, via both virtual and in-person. The Board meeting was conducted under Minn. Stat. § 13D.021. Video and audio of this County Board meeting are available on the Dakota County website.

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Chair Mary Liz Holberg.

21-246

Approval Of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Mike Slavik

On a motion by Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland, seconded by Commissioner Mike Slavik, the agenda was unanimously approved.

REGULAR AGENDA

County Board/County Administration

21-247

Interview Of County Attorney Finalists, Consideration Of Appointment Of County Attorney And Scheduling A Special County Board Meeting

Chair Holberg opened this item and then handed it off to the subcommittee Chair Gaylord to hold the interviews. Kathryn Keena and Elizabeth Lamin were interviewed for the County Attorney position.

Motion: Kathleen A. Gaylord

Second: Mike Slavik

WHEREAS, County Attorney James C. Backstrom retired effective February 27, 2021; and

WHEREAS, under Minn. Stat. §§ 382.02 and 375.08, when a vacancy occurs in the Office of the County Attorney the County Board has the authority to appoint an individual to fill such vacancy for the balance of the current term of office of the departing County Attorney; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 21-107 (February 16, 2021), the County Board authorized the Director of Employee Relations to seek candidates for appointment to the office of County Attorney by advertising in appropriate locations for a three week period, a job posting providing the minimum qualifications, a general description of the statutory duties of the County Attorney and summary of the expected knowledge, skill and

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abilities of the candidates; and

WHEREAS, the application period closed on March 8, 2021; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 21-131 (March 9, 2021), a subcommittee to review applicants and identify finalists was authorized by the County Board; and

WHEREAS, the subcommittee met on Tuesday, March 16 to review the list of applicants for County Attorney. Based on a review of qualifications and experience, the subcommittee unanimously identified three applicants to proceed as finalists; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 21-171 (March 23, 2021), the Dakota County Board of Commissioners approved the following applicants recommended by the subcommittee as finalists:

- Kathryn Keena
- Elizabeth Lamin
- Thomas Pugh

; and

WHEREAS, on April 30, 2021, Thomas Pugh notified staff and the Board that he withdrew his application for consideration of the Appointed County Attorney position; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 21-210 (April 20, 2021), the Dakota County Board of Commissioners scheduled a Special Meeting for May 4, 2021, at Noon, in the Boardroom, Administration Center, 1590 Highway 55, Hastings, Minnesota, or via telephone or other electronic means if necessary due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, to interview finalists for appointment as the County Attorney; and

WHEREAS, upon completion of the interviews, the County Board considered the merits of each candidate and selected a preferred candidate to appoint as County Attorney to serve out the remaining County Attorney term ending on January 1, 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby selects Kathryn Keena as the preferred candidate for appointment as Dakota County Attorney; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby directs the subcommittee together with assistance from the County Manager and Director of Employee Relations to complete any necessary background checks and finalize the terms of the appointment with the preferred candidate, contingent upon future Board approval; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby schedules a Special County Board meeting on May 11, 2021, following the Physical Development Committee of the Whole meeting, in the Boardroom, Administration Center, 1590 Highway 55, Hastings, Minnesota, or via telephone or other electronic means if necessary due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, to finalize the appointment of the County Attorney.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

21-248

Adjournment

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Laurie Halverson

On a motion by Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland, seconded by Commissioner Laurie Halverson, the meeting was adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

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Mary Liz Holberg
Chair

ATTEST

Matt Smith
County Manager