

May 11, 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; Kathryn M. Keena, County Attorney; 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.

21-249

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

21-250

Appointment Of County Attorney

The subcommittee chair Gaylord briefed this item and responded to questions.

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 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

May 11, 2021

was authorized by the County Board; and

WHEREAS, the subcommittee met March 16, 2021 to review the list of applicants for County Attorney and 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 held a Special Meeting for May 4, 2021, to interview the two finalists for appointment as the County Attorney; and

WHEREAS, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners selected Kathryn M. Keena as the preferred candidate for appointment as Dakota County Attorney; and

WHEREAS, the subcommittee together with assistance from the County Manager and Director of Employee Relations completed any necessary background checks and finalized the terms of the appointment with the preferred candidate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby appoints Kathryn M. Keena as County Attorney, effective May 11, 2021, to serve out the remaining County Attorney term ending on January 1, 2023, at an annual salary of \$190,000 with other terms as set forth in the 2021 Unclassified Employees Merit Compensation Policy and Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby grants a leave of absence to Kathryn M. Keena from her current position as Chief Deputy County Attorney for duration of this appointive term as County Attorney.

21-251

Adjournment

Motion: Liz Workman

Second: Mike Slavik

On a motion by Commissioner Liz Workman, seconded by Commissioner Mike Slavik, the meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Mary Liz Holberg
Chair

ATTEST

Matt Smith
County Manager