

LINN COUNTY COMMITTEE OF COUNTY OFFICERS
DESIGNATED TO FILL A BOARD OF SUPERVISORS VACANCY
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2025, 1:30 P.M.

The Committee met in the formal boardroom of the Linn County Jean Oxley Public Service Center. Present: Auditor Todd Taylor, Recorder Carolyn Siebrecht, and Treasurer Brent Oleson. Committee members voting "AYE" unless otherwise noted.

Chairperson Taylor called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Minutes:

Taylor asked that the minutes of the March 13, 2025, meeting be revised to say, "advance in the process", rather than "qualified" when referring to the candidates selected by The Committee.

Motion by Taylor, Oleson seconded to revise the minutes as stated.

Motion by Taylor, Oleson seconded to approve the minutes of March 13, 2025, as amended.

Public Comment:

Randy Walker, 7706 Pin Tail Drive, expressed concerns about the increase in his property taxes over the past five years and the costs associated with a special election.

Michael Elmore, 1720 Applewood Place NE, Cedar Rapids, spoke in support of filling the Board of Supervisors vacancy by special election rather than appointment.

Circe Stumbo, 3839 Cottage Grove Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids, thanked the Committee members for their work thus far. She asked the Committee to consider conducting interviews publicly.

Larry Oelrich, Larry Drive NE, Cedar Rapids, thanked the Committee members for their service. He remarked that would like to see the Committee fill the Board of Supervisors vacancy by way of special election rather than appointment.

Josh Henik, 941 Henik Road, Mount Vernon, attended on behalf of Linn County Farm Bureau. He thanked the Committee members for their service and said he was looking forward to building a relationship with the new supervisor. Henik agreed with Stumbo that all interviews should be held publicly.

Update on Senate File 75 – An Act Relating to County Supervisors, Concerning County Supervisor Representation Plans and County Supervisor Vacancies

Darrin Gage, Director of Policy and Administration, provided the Committee with a brief update on Senate File 75 (SF75). Gage said the bill passed both the House and Senate and is now waiting for signature by Governor Kim Reynolds. He added that if the bill is signed by Governor Reynolds prior to the Board of Supervisors vacancy on April 1, the County will be required to fill it by special election.

Discuss and Decide on How to Fill the Vacancy on the Board of Supervisors

Taylor provided a recap of the previous meeting, explaining the process in which the Committee has used thus far.

Siebrecht asked that the Committee discuss the candidates they would like to see advance in the process.

The Committee members reviewed a list of candidates, organized by the number of votes from each member. There were two candidates with three (unanimous) votes: Joan McCalmant and Anne Harris Carter, one candidate with two votes: Sami Scheetz, and one candidate with one vote and an undecided vote: Margaret Jessen.

Siebrecht decided to change her undecided vote for Margaret Jessen to a "yes" vote. She asked the other Committee members what their thoughts were on how many people to interview.

Oleson said he wanted to provide justification on each of his votes.

Taylor shared his opinion, stating that he would only like to interview candidates who received either two or three votes from the Committee.

Oleson explained some of his votes and shared that candidates Evan Langston, Kris Gulick, Andrew Whiting, and Tom Podzimek all met the ten criteria Oleson stated at a previous meeting. He said all four of these candidates have demonstrated passion for local government.

Siebrecht was supportive of interviewing only the candidates that have two or more votes.

Oleson was not opposed to Siebrecht's idea.

Siebrecht and Taylor reiterated that all candidates need to be made aware of potential for special election.

Motion by Taylor, seconded by Siebrecht, to interview all candidates with two or more votes: Joan McCalmant, Anne Harris Carter, Sami Scheetz, and Margaret Jessen.

The Committee discussed when and where to hold interviews. All agreed upon the formal board room on Monday, March 31, 2025. If for some reason an applicant was not available on Monday, the interviews could continue onto Tuesday, April 1, 2025.

Set the Date of the Next Meeting

The Committee agreed the next meeting will be held on March 31, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

Gage told the Committee members that if they have specific questions for the interviewees, they need to provide the questions to Lisa Powell prior to the interview. Powell added that the questions need to be the same for all interviews.

Motion by Taylor to meet and interview candidates at 1:30 p.m. on March 31, 2025, and meet again at 1:30 p.m. on April 1, 2025, to conclude interviews if necessary and take action as necessary. Seconded by Oleson.

Motion by Taylor, seconded by Siebrecht to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 p.m., for lack of further business.

Respectfully submitted,


JESSIE BLACK, Recording Secretary

APPROVED BY:


TODD E. TAYLOR, Chairperson
Committee of County Officers
Designated to Fill a Board of Supervisors Vacancy