

WEXFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Special Meeting * Monday, August 03, 2015

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Vice Chairman John Fuscone.

Roll call: Present – Commissioners Michael MacCready, Leslie Housler, Robert Hilty, Mark Howie, Julie Theobald, Gary Taylor, John Fuscone, and Bill Goodwill; Absent – Commissioner Gideon Mitchell;

Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda

MOTION by Comm Housler, seconded by Comm Taylor to approve the agenda, as presented.

All in favor.

Public Comments - None

Agenda Items

1. Interview for the Administrator Position

Todd Surline, Hiring Solutions, appeared before the Board to review the process the company used in selecting candidates for the Administrator position. Today's interview will be with two candidates that were selected by the Search Committee. After personal interviews by the Search Committee two candidates were selected: Nathan Burd and Dennis Liimatta.

Tonight's meeting has been scheduled for the two candidates to provide Board members with their background and experiences. Board members will be given a chance to ask questions.

Todd Surline began providing the board with some background information on Nathan Burd. He believes Mr. Burd understands the differences between City Manager and County Administrator. He has an interest in local government and creating relationships with the public. Mr. Surline feels Mr. Burd has creative ideas on challenging issues. He has a strong background that will be a value to the County with his mental acuity and leadership skill.

Mr. Burd thanked the Board sincerely for the opportunity to be part of the interview process. He provided the Board with some of his personal background. He is familiar with State and Local government and believes government is the most rewarding work. He has been successful in grant writing over the past few years. His management skill is to respect staff and not be heavy handed or micro manage.

Mr. Burd has strong feelings about strategic planning. He believes it was important to write out goals to be accountable to the public. His vision is broad and not aggressive. He would like to identify challenges and try to get grants to help offset the cost for the county.

The interview was concluded by fielding questions from the Board members.

The Board took a 10 minute break before the second candidate was brought in.

MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Howie to resume open session at 6:45 p.m.

All in favor.

Todd Surline again provided the Board with some background information on Dennis Liimatta. He is the Supervisor in Marquette Township. He also worked in sales. He took care of a number of pending projects when he became Supervisor. He believes it is key to develop an open dialog with members of the community. He has a leadership profile as well as a direct and assertive personality.

Dennis Liimatta thanked the Board for the interview opportunity. He has spent a large share of his life in sales. Several years ago he watched as his township was being torn apart. He then decided to get involved and has been elected twice. The transition from business to government went smoother than he thought. Business practices can be applied to government. He feels that strategic planning is everything to help move things forward. He sees the administrator filter information back down. Elected officials answer to the board and the public. They must all share the same vision.

Mr. Liimatta then fielded questions from the Board.

The Board took a short break.

MOTION by Comm Howie, seconded by Comm Taylor to resume open session at 7:40 p.m.

All in favor.

Board members invited Elected Officials to address the Board with their thoughts on who to select. Sheriff Finstrom, Register of Deeds Sorensen, Treasurer Stanton and Clerk Richardson all felt that Mr. Burd would be the best fit for the county. He seems to be a problem solver with a vast amount of experience in

both Local, County, and State government. Also, he seemed to clearly answer the questions posted to him. The Sheriff also thanked the Board for including the elected officials in the interview process. This is the first time since he has been in office.

Board members discussed having a rating system. It was thought that ballots would be passed out to each commissioner with their name on it. On the paper they would put their first and second choice.

Ballots were collected by the Clerk and will be sealed. The candidate supported by a majority of commissioners was Nathan Burd.

MOTION by Comm Housler, seconded by Comm Taylor to offer the Wexford County Administrator's position to Nathan Burd and have the HR Chair designate additional Commissioners and the Interim Administrator to negotiate with the Top Candidate and recommend a contract to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

After further discussion by Board members the vote was called for.

Roll call: Motion approved unanimously.

Public Comments - None

Board Comment

Comm MacCready was glad the Board had the opportunity to interview two candidates with very different backgrounds.

Comm Housler thanked Hiring Solutions for all their help. Great Job.

Comm Howie felt Hiring Solutions did a great job.

Comm Taylor thanked Todd Surline of Hiring Solutions.

Comm Fuscone was happy that this process of hiring the administrator was a joint effort by the Board and Elected officials.

Comm Goodwill felt a great job was done with some volunteering extra time.

Chairman's Comments

Comm Fuscone thanked all for taking an interest in the process and hoped the new administrator would be here for some time.

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**MOTION by Comm Taylor, seconded by Comm Theobald to adjourn
the Special Meeting at 8:00 p.m.**

John Fuscone, Vice Chairperson

Elaine L. Richardson, County Clerk