

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

TUESDAY

9:00 A.M.

DECEMBER 30, 2014

PRESENT:

David Humke, Chairman
Bonnie Weber, Vice Chairperson
Marsha Berkbigler, Commissioner
Kitty Jung, Commissioner
Vaughn Hartung, Commissioner

Nancy Parent, County Clerk
John Slaughter, County Manager
Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 9:18 a.m. in special session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerk called the roll and the Board conducted the following business:

14-1102 AGENDA ITEM 3 – PUBLIC COMMENT

Agenda Subject: “Public Comment. Comment heard under this item will be limited to three minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the Commission agenda. The Commission will also hear public comment during individual action items, with comment limited to three minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the Commission as a whole.”

Connie McMullen stated she was present on behalf of Amber Joiner, who she has known since 2003. She first became acquainted with her when she was getting her master’s degree and then as an employee of the Legislative Counsel Bureau. She said she worked with Ms. Joiner in drafting a Bill Draft Request (BDR) for the Strategic Plan Accountability Committee and on the Grants Management Unit. From what she knew of her, she believed Ms. Joiner could hit the ground running and would be a good representative of District. 24.

Susan Robinson stated she had known Amber Joiner for more than ten years and believed she would make an outstanding Legislator. She explained she first met Ms. Joiner when she was the Executive Director of the American Cancer Society. She stated Ms. Joiner showed leadership, attention to detail, her passion for the cause, and she could get things done with outstanding outcomes. Ms. Robinson stated she was currently the Executive Director of the Northern Nevada Literacy Council, which was a non-profit school that educated adults to reach their high school equivalency degree. She contacted Ms. Joiner when they were having difficulty finding bi-lingual patient navigators to help

people get enrolled in the Nevada Health Link insurance program. She said Ms. Joiner understood the importance of the health insurance issue and she got Ms. Robinson connected with the right people.

Erik Schoen, Executive Director Human Services Network and Deputy Director for Community Chest, stated he was present to speak on behalf of Stephanie Schoen. He said she enrolled in graduate school to earn a Master's Degree in Political Science, because she wanted to learn additional skills for affecting policy change so families who needed access to services could get them. He noted she went to Washington, D.C. for a professional conference and while there, she met with Senator Reid to express her view points. He said she also had a volunteer service heart, such as adopting angels off the senior angel tree and finding ways to make a difference for Nevadans across the State. He thought some of the most important things to emphasize about Ms. Schoen was that she did most of her work on her own time, had great energy and a joy for life.

Malena Raymond stated she was present to speak in support of Andrew Diss. She said she was the parent of a kindergartner and education had become increasingly important to her. She believed Mr. Diss would be the best candidate because of his specific experience with education and ten years working as a legislative staffer. She hoped the Board would consider him for Assembly District 24.

Lieutenant K.C. Dalton stated he was present to voice his support for Andrew Diss. He said he was also representing his dad, Kenny Dalton, retired firefighter who was unable to attend. He noted he had known Mr. Diss since he was 12 years old, when they first met at middle school. He stated Mr. Diss had always been passionate about being in government and impacting people's lives in a positive way. He said Mr. Diss had always supported him and had been at every major event in his life, including graduation from the Naval Academy, for both of his deployments, and when he returned to Reno to become an officer recruiter for northern Nevada. He said character and ability were things he looked for in a leader and he believed Mr. Diss was an up and coming leader for the community.

Mary Liveratti stated she was present in support of Amber Joiner. She noted that when Ms. Joiner worked at the Legislative Counsel Bureau, she knew her to be very fair and open-minded, non-biased, thoughtful, hardworking and someone who did their homework. She thought she would be committed to improving services and would make sure those services were the most effective and efficient that they could be.

Joe Crowley, President, University of Nevada Reno, stated he was in support of Amber Joiner. He said he had known her for 15 years, she was very active in student government at the University, served in the student senate for two years and was the President of the Associated Students. He said in his capacity at the University he kept his eye out for those people who he thought would be leaders of the future. He noted public policy had been Ms. Joiner's life and if she was appointed by the Board, she would do a wonderful job.

Alice Good stated she had been a resident of District 24 for 20 years and she supported David Bobzien. She said now with the opportunity to replace Mr. Bobzien, she believed the best person would be Glenn Miller. She explained she had known Mr. Miller for 30 years, had worked with him at the College of Agriculture, and their kids went to high school together. During that time, he had been a fixture at the legislature testifying on bills affecting public health, the environment and education. She said his model for mining regulations had been accepted throughout the world. She believed Mr. Miller's efforts had made Nevada a better place by cleaning up the polluting jet skis at Lake Tahoe and working with mines to reclaim contaminated water. She believed there was no better advocate for education than Mr. Miller.

14-1103 AGENDA ITEM 4 – ANNOUNCEMENTS

Agenda Subject: “Commissioners’/Manager’s announcements, reports/updates from County Commission members concerning various boards/commissions they may be a member of or liaison to. Requests for information, topics for future agendas and any ideas and suggestions for greater efficiency, cost effectiveness and innovation in County government. (No discussion among Commissioners will take place on this item.)”

Commissioner Weber asked to place an item on the January 13, 2015 agenda regarding Scenic Nevada and the City of Reno.

None of the other Commissioners had anything to report.

14-1104 AGENDA ITEM 5

Agenda Subject: “Discussion and possible action to establish a process to fill the vacant Assembly District 24 seat possibly including public statements by candidates, interviews and possible selection of finalists.”

John Slaughter, County Manager, stated staff had reviewed the processes used in the past to fill legislative seats and as a result of that review a document was given to the Board entitled, “Assembly District 24, Selection Process, Items to Consider.” The handout was placed on file with the Clerk. He went through the individual bullet points noting all applicants had been screened by the County Registrar of Voters and that Heather Goulding submitted a request to have her name withdrawn.

Chairman Humke said the most significant bullet point was #7 regarding whether the Board should consider providing the candidates with questions in advance. His preference was to determine the questions, have staff make copies of those, and give them to the candidates. He suggested a 20 minute recess to allow the candidates to review the questions.

Commissioner Hartung stated he thought it would be appropriate for the candidates to introduce themselves prior to the Board giving them the questions. Chairman Humke concurred stating that was consistent with the Open Meeting Law.

Commissioner Weber thought when the candidates were provided with the questions, they should be sequestered so as not to hear the other candidate's individual answers. Chairman Humke stated bullet point #4 would allow for the Board to consider asking all candidates to be sequestered during the interview. Paul Lipparelli, Legal Counsel, stated the Open Meeting Law did not create any exception for those times when the Board was appointing someone to a public office. He stated the Chair had the power to direct how the meeting would be handled.

Chairman Humke stated there was no objection to Commissioner Weber's suggestion to request voluntary sequestration. He requested a time line or a rule for guidance. Commissioner Weber stated the Board would select the questions before the candidates left the room, if they chose to leave, and then they could formulate their answers. She thought five to eight minutes would be plenty of time to allow for the candidates to answer the questions. Chairman Humke stated it had been suggested earlier to give them ten minutes.

Commissioner Berkbigler stated she thought ten minutes was fairer and would give the candidates time to put their personality into their answers. She felt it was important for the Board to know something personal about the person. She said it was one thing to look at a resume, but it was another thing entirely to hear a public presentation.

Chairman Humke suggested the candidates speak in the order reached after drawing names. Mr. Slaughter stated they were prepared to draw names. Chairman Humke asked to finalize the time limit. The Board concurred with allowing the candidates to have ten minutes to respond to the questions.

In a call for the Board to select their preferred questions from the 12 questions listed on the handout, Commissioner Hartung selected question 2, Commissioner Jung selected question 6 with an edit, Commissioner Berkbigler liked question 11 but wanted to include in the question a discussion from the candidates regarding their position on Home Rule, and Commissioner Weber stated she had her own question. Mr. Slaughter suggested allowing for a 30-minute break for the candidates to review the questions.

The following represents a list of the questions selected and edited to be given to each candidate:

1. Please provide us with examples of how you have demonstrated the skills necessary for an effective working relationship between you and the other members of the State Legislators, the Board of County

Commissioners, other elected officials and the people of Washoe County.

2. How would you define a good working relationship between you and other local governing bodies of Washoe County that you will represent?
3. In your opinion, what is the role of state government in creating a vibrant, strong, and diverse economy at the County or regional level? What is your opinion on Home Rule?
4. Have you ever considered running for the legislature either previously or in the future?

Chairman Humke asked if the Board would like to provide follow-up questions. Commissioner Weber suggested Chairman Humke ask the candidates a question. Commissioner Jung stated if the Chair wanted to ask a question he could, but she felt the process was in place. Chairman Humke stated he did not think follow-up questions were good policy with a structured interview, save and except questions for clarification.

Chairman Humke disclosed he spoke with all the candidates and Commissioner Berkbigler disclosed she spoke to some of the applicants and declared many of the candidates were personal friends whom she had known for a very long time. Commissioner Weber stated she met with one candidate, but received many phone calls on behalf of all of them. Commissioner Hartung disclosed he had conversations with a number of the candidates and received many emails.

Chairman Humke asked each candidate to come forward and introduce themselves. The candidates appeared in the following random order: Glenn Miller, Margaret Flint, Stephanie Schoen, Anne Marie Vierra, Amber Joiner, Ross Armstrong, Michael Guss, Erik Holland, Andrew Diss, Matthew Tuma, and Brad Summerhill.

There was no public comment on this item.

10:12 a.m. The Board recessed.

10:57 a.m. The Board reconvened with all members present.

14-1105 AGENDA ITEM 6

Agenda Subject: “Consideration of the applications for the vacancy of the Assembly District 24 seat of the following people [Ross Armstrong, Andrew Diss, Margaret Flint, Heather Goulding, Michael Guss, Erik Holland, Amber Joiner, Glenn Miller, Stephanie Schoen, Brad Summerhill, Matthew Tuma, Anne Marie Vierra]; and discussion and possible action to appoint a person to the vacant Assembly District 24 seat.”

The candidates came forward in the following order with their responses to the four questions selected by the Board under Agenda Item 5.

1. ANDREW DISS
2. GLENN MILLER
3. AMBER JOINER
4. ERIK HOLLAND
5. MARGARET FLINT
6. ROSS ARMSTRONG
7. ANNE MARIE VIERRA
8. BRAD SUMMERHILL
9. STEPHANIE SCHOEN
10. MICHAEL GUSS
11. MATTHEW TUMA

There was no response to the call for public comment.

Commissioner Hartung requested to discuss the process of narrowing down the candidates. He stated historically, each Board member would disclose their top candidates and then narrow it down from there. He asked if the Board maintained that process, how many candidates should each Board member choose. Chairman Humke stated the handout identified that each Board member would select their top two candidates. The Board concurred with disclosing their top two candidates.

Commissioner Jung stated she felt there were some real rock stars among the 11 applicants and was pleased staff suggested having all 11 applicants appear before the Board. She said the Board recognized how important it was to maintain a relationship with all the candidates, but more so with the chosen candidate. She noted she was looking for someone who could hit the ground running. Her number one choice was Amber Joiner and her number two choice was Ross Armstrong.

Commissioner Weber stated she believed all of the candidates would do a great job. She disclosed she would not list her top two candidates in any order. Her choices were Amber Joiner and Andrew Diss.

Commissioner Berkbigler stated she agreed with Commissioner Jung about the qualities and abilities of the candidates and said the Republicans better get their act together. She said this decision was tough for her because she had some very good friends in the group. Her top two choices were Andrew Diss and Ross Armstrong.

Commissioner Hartung stated party did not matter to him in his selection and he agreed all candidates were amazing. He said he knew some of the candidates, but was very impressed with all of them. He stated his two choices were Amber Joiner and Ross Armstrong.

Chairman Humke said it was tough to make comparisons among the 11 candidates. He reiterated his pleasure in speaking with all the candidates one-on-one and pointed out individual characteristics of each candidate that impressed him. He stated his number one choice was Amber Joiner and his second choice was Stephanie Schoen.

On motion by Commissioner Jung, seconded by Commissioner Hartung, which motion duly carried, it was ordered that Amber Joiner be appointed to fill the vacant Assembly District 24 seat effective immediately.

Ms. Joiner came forward and thanked the Board and her fellow applicants for being supportive and for their ideas to better the community.

14-1106 AGENDA ITEM 8

Agenda Subject: “Public Comment. Comment heard under this item will be limited to three minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the Commission agenda. The Commission will also hear public comment during individual action items, with comment limited to three minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the Commission as a whole.”

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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1:00 p.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without opposition.

Chairperson,
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

NANCY PARENT, County Clerk and
Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

*Minutes Prepared by:
Jaime Delleria, Deputy County Clerk*