

The Board of Supervisors met on 9/30/16 at 1:00 p.m. in the Story County Administration Building for a special meeting to consider the appointment of a County Attorney to fill the vacancy of the elected office. Members present: Marty Chitty, Wayne E. Clinton, and Rick Sanders with Sanders presiding.

OVERVIEW OF THE APPOINTMENT PROCESS – Sanders provided an overview, including a timeline of events. He provided details of how the Board made its decision to appoint. Sanders noted that the majority of vacancies in elected county offices are filled by appointment, not just in Story County but statewide. He provided a timeline of the application process. Only one qualified applicant submitted application materials: Jessica Reynolds. Sanders went over the agenda and asked if there were any questions. There were none.

DETERMINATION OF QUALIFIED APPLICANTS BASED ON COMPLETION OF APPLICATION AND CODE OF IOWA – Sanders stated only one application was received. It was from Jessica Reynolds.

PRESENTATIONS BY QUALIFIED APPLICANTS – Jessica Reynolds began by stating her current title: First Assistant County Attorney for Story County. She stated it was her honor and privilege to be here. She has devoted her professional life to public service. She provided details about her experience, her results, and her motivation and intent, with several details under each topic. She ended her presentation by respectfully requesting the Board appoint her as County Attorney. Sanders asked for additional detail about Reynolds' decision to work in the public sector which she provided. He clarified with Reynolds that she has no private practice experience. Reynolds stated yes. She stated court experience is crucial, whether public or private. Clinton asked Reynolds how she would differ from Holmes as County Attorney. She stated they are similar but have different management styles. Chitty asked how the office would handle voter fraud. Reynolds provided the *Code of Iowa* section and provided detail on procedures. She stated it is treated like any other crime. Sanders asked for her philosophy on victim services and Reynolds supplied extensive detail. Clinton asked how Reynolds about her process for hiring. Reynolds said she looks at the budget, discusses it with Human Resources, and makes her case to the Board. Chitty asked for Reynolds experience with the County's annual budget process. Reynolds stated she presented for the office for the current fiscal year and is fully ready. Chitty asked if Reynolds supports the plan to have the entire Attorney's Office in Nevada. Reynolds said yes. Chitty asked how Reynolds would resolve conflict between the Attorney's Office and the BOS. Reynolds stated of course disagreements will occur but she will always respectfully make the best case for her office. She stated the County Attorney is the lawyer for the BOS and all other elected officials. Any disagreements will not alter her commitment to that duty. Sanders asked about mental health and drug courts. Reynolds stated she is interested in the topics but has no experience with either one. She would go in with an open mind, observe, and do what is best for the public. She has no official opinion.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Maureen Barton spoke in favor of Reynolds' appointment and gave examples. Tim Meals, Story County Assistant County Attorney, read a letter signed by all 13 assistant county attorneys in Story County in favor of Reynolds' appointment. Tiffany Meredith, spoke in favor of Reynolds' appointment. Gary Kendall, private practice attorney from Des Moines, spoke in favor of Reynolds' appointment. He was formerly Reynolds' supervisor when he was County Attorney in Warren County. Chitty asked Kendall about private practice versus public practice. Kendall stated nothing in private practice would better prepare someone to be County Attorney; the benefit actually works the other way. Sanders read comments he received via mail and phone. Rob Hawkins, Indianola Police Department, wrote a letter of support for Reynolds. Jesse Ramirez, former Story County Assistant Attorney, wrote in support of Reynolds' appointment. Robert Thorson, retired Juvenile Court officer, wrote in favor of Reynolds' appointment. Clinton read comments he had received. Travis Johnson, formerly of Story County and now an assistant attorney in Dickinson County, wrote in favor of Reynolds' appointment. Sanders read a letter in favor of Reynolds' appointment from Cinnamon Maudesly, Kossuth County Victim Witness coordinator. Sanders said a woman who did not give her name left messages against the appointment process (versus a special election). She did not share anything specific about Jessica Reynolds. All three BOS members spoke with judges, attorneys, and law enforcement officials and all received similar positive comments about Reynolds without reservation. Discussion took place amongst the Board reinforcing the decision to appoint.

SCORING THE PREFERRED QUALIFICATION MATRIX BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS – the Board scored Reynolds on the matrix. She received 17 points out of a possible 20.

CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT – Clinton moved to appoint Jessica Reynolds as the Story County Attorney. Motion seconded by Chitty. Sanders stated the County is extremely fortunate to have Jessica Reynolds. He called the question. Chitty: aye. Clinton: aye. Sanders: aye. Motion passes. He briefly recessed the meeting so the Auditor could prepare the certificate of appointment.

Motion by Chitty, second by Clinton to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.