



MINIDOKA COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETING MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING Cassia County Commissioners' Chambers

August 28, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 P.M.

Present for the meeting were: Commissioners Moore, Koyle, and McClellan and Clerk Page of Minidoka County and Commissioners Kunau, Darrington, and Christensen, Clerk Larson, Commissioner Assistant McMurray, Prosecutor Abenroth, and Deputy Prosecutor Larsen of Cassia County. Also present were Judges Hodges and Cannon.

Commissioner Kunau called the meeting to order for the purpose of receiving input from the judges as to what they would like to see in a new public defender.

Judge Cannon voiced he would like to see experience, the ability to carry a caseload, the ability to handle a death penalty case as a 2nd chair, and be in good standing with the bar association.

Judge Hodges requests someone who has managerial skills and would prefer someone with more than a couple of years of experience. There are a great number of changes required in the services provided by a public defender and a law change in child protection cases for children ages 12 and up. He would also like references.

Commissioner Christensen would like to see someone who can represent the accused in a way that will facilitate a firm and speedy decision and who is competent and articulate.

Commissioner McClellan would like to see experience, qualifications, and a willingness to work.

Commissioner Darrington would like to see who the applicants are and work from there and needs someone who is stable and who will protect the rights of the accused.

Commissioner Kunau led a discussion on joint powers. Prosecutor Abenroth stated the joint powers were created in 2005. Commissioner Christensen noted that the joint powers agreement is good for the criminality aspect of cases in both counties. Clerk Larson reiterated that the Public Defense Commission supplies extra funding for the joint powers. Commissioner Moore stated that our joint public defender program is the poster child for the Public Defense Commission.

Commissioners continued with September 10th as being the date to interview but Prosecutor Abenroth reported that he had spoken to Trial Court Administrator Shelli Tubbs and no interviews can be held until a new committee has been appointed as per state statute 19-860 (4)(s). Administrative Judge Wildman will appoint a panel to select no less than 3 and no more than 5

candidates. If that number of candidates are not qualified then the panel will submit less. The Boards would like to leave the September 10th date on the agenda just in case the new panel has finished their selection process by then. Trial Court Administrator Tubbs will notify Mr. Abenroth when Judge Wildman has issued the new order.

Commissioner Kunau discussed the budget for this position. Budget allows for \$75,000 and up to \$85,000, if needed to obtain candidates. It appears there are 5 applicants for this position with 4 qualified at the \$85,000. posting.

Discussion on the conflict and second conflict public defender situation, in both counties, was started and comments made concerning hourly pay. However, this discussion was short lived due to being off topic for the agenda.

Commissioner Koyle made a motion to adjourn with a second voiced by Commissioner McClellan. Motion carried.

Having nothing further to come before the Boards, the meeting was adjourned at 5:18 P.M.

Robert Moore, Chairman

ATTEST:

Tonya Page, Clerk