

11/21/2022

County Supervisor Vacancy Committee

1:30 pm

County Auditor Eric Van Lancker explained the purpose for the meeting and the pending vacancy with Supervisor Determann being elected to the State Assembly. The committee consists of County Auditor Eric Van Lancker, County Treasurer Dustin Johnson and County Recorder Scott Judd.

Van Lancker explained the vacancy has to be filled within 40 days of the vacancy, per Code of Iowa Chapter 69. He said this committee will decide to order a special election or make an appointment. Van Lancker explained if this committee decides to go to the appointment process, then the citizens will need to submit a petition with nearly 1,700 signatures to hold a special election. This petition must be filed within 14 days after the publication or 14 days after appointment is made.

Johnson said that the position will be filled until the end of the term in 2024, serving the remainder of Supervisor Determann term.

Van Lancker said that the committee will now talk about the process of special election or appointment. Comments are welcome.

Bev Herman, Clinton, said her comments are meant to represent all residents of the county. She believes this position should be filled by holding a special election. She said that currently all three supervisors are from the same political party and feels a need for more diversity.

Steve Cundiff, Camanche, explained his previous run for the Supervisor position. He said he feels like he put the work in running for the position. He said he lost by seven votes in the 2022 primary and feels he should be considered as a candidate for the vacant position.

Kathryn Wynn Calvin, Clinton, requests that a special election be held for the people of Clinton to choose the person to fill the position.

Linda Bicksler, Clinton, asked whether the people attending the meeting will get to vote today if they would like a special election. Van Lancker said that is not the purpose of the meeting.

Van Lancker said he would support a special election because it is in the middle of the term. He said state and US representatives are elected to two-year terms. He added this position will represent the residents of Clinton County through many upcoming issues like two county budgets, a pipeline project and another solar project.

Judd said that the appointment process would provide the opportunity to seat the best person to go forward. He said interested people will have to come forward by petition or by themselves. He feels appointment seems the best route to fill the position.

Van Lancker said a special election could cost \$30,000-\$35,000.

Johnson said he supports the approach of appointment. He feels like the committee will be fair and an appointment will provide a large group of qualified individuals to select from. His preference is to go with the appointment route and allowing three weeks for interested persons to put

in an application. He said it is in the best interest of the taxpayers to have a fully staffed leadership ready to go when the position becomes vacant. Applications for the position would be due by December 16.

**MOTION** by Johnson to fill the vacancy by appointment. Van Lancker asked for discussion on the motion.

Brian Tugana, Clinton, said voting is our most precious right as citizens and thinks the appointment route puts an advantage to the process and the committee members become super voters. He said too many people say they are committed to run for an election and then choose another option and jump to another position. This is the second time Determann has done that using taxpayers' dollars. He is concerned about facilities in Clinton County and the attempt to collect back taxes. He strongly feels there should be a special election.

Johnson addressed the concern regarding the delinquent taxes and explained that he is focused on collecting taxes based on the Code of Iowa regulations.

Lindra Bicksler, Clinton, commented that she strongly agrees that there should be a special election.

Tom Gibbons, Clinton, said holding a special election is the right thing to do. He said election should be conducted when the opportunity arises because they are important.

Cundiff again reminded the attendees that he ran for the position in the primary and lost by 7 votes. He mentioned that there was no one from the Democratic Party that ran against the Republican candidates for the position in November.

Steve Hasenmiller, DeWitt, said he supports and agrees with the appointment process. He said that those on the committee were voted in by the people and they are sitting here today to make that decision. He feels that the only way for elected officials to move up is to take opportunities as they come up.

Van Lancker said he supports anyone who puts themselves in a position to run for election and seek greater positions.

Mary Golinvaux, Clinton, requests that the focus be placed on the individuals who apply to support Mental Health issues. She said there is such a great need for more mental health services in Clinton.

Van Lancker called for roll call on the **MOTION** by Johnson to fill the vacancy by appointment.

**ROLL CALL**

Van Lancker: No

Johnson: Yes

Judd: Yes

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Van Lancker talked about the process and the next steps after the committee voted to make an appointment. He said he will write up a news release. Johnson suggested Dec. 16 be the cutoff date to accept applications. Van Lancker said letters of intention/resumes may be submitted to Auditor's office.

Johnson said depending on the number of applications will determine how long it will take to review. Next meeting is set for Dec. 19 at 1:30 p.m. He said a public notice of appointment date also needs to be published.

Van Lancker said the public notice needs to be published four days before but not more than 20 days before the meeting in which the committee plans to make the appointment.

Johnson said the schedule seems good enough to proceed with. Johnson suggested to schedule a meeting for the morning of January 4 at 9 am for the appointment.

Judd said a petition for a Special Election can start anytime but the petition cannot be submitted until 14 days after the appointment.

Van Lancker said he will get a date that the special election can be held if a petition is submitted.

Anita Hayes, Clinton, asked committee members Judd and Johnson if they already had a candidate in mind. Both members indicated they did not. Hayes still believes an election is the right way to fill this vacancy.

Van Lancker thanked those in attendance and appreciated their comments and adjourned the meeting.