

Grafton County Delegation Vote on Commissioner Vacancy
Grafton County ~ UNH Conference Room
North Haverhill, NH
Monday January 27, 2014

PRESENT: Representatives Aguiar, Almy, Bailey, Benn, Cooney, Doolan, Ford, Friedrich, Gionet, Harding, Higgins, Ladd, Lauer, Massimilla, Mulholland, Pastor-Bodmer, Piper, Reilly, Smith, Sykes, Townsend and White. Executive Director Julie Clough, and Administrative Asst. Samantha Norcross.

EXCUSED: Representatives Bradley, Brown, Lovett, Nordgren and Shackett.

OTHERS: See attached list

10:05 AM ~ Rep. White called the meeting to order and Rep. Almy (Acting Clerk) called the roll. 22 members were present when the roll was called and a quorum was declared. The meeting then began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Representative White explained to the Delegation, the process that the Executive Committee has gone through and how they narrowed down the field of candidates for the Commissioner vacancy to two (2).

Rep. White stated that today they would open the floor to nominations. He stated that he and Vice Chair Ladd had agreed the best way to proceed was through Robert's Rules which has a process to fill committee vacancies.

Rep. White stated he would now open the floor for nominations

Rep. Smith nominated Richard Long

Rep. Gionet nominated Linda Lauer

Rep. White asked if there were any other nominations.

Rep. Townsend moved to close nominations. Rep. Ford seconded the motion.

With no further discussion a roll call vote was taken by Acting Clerk Almy. Reps. Aguiar, Almy, Bailey, Benn, Cooney, Doolan, Ford, Friedrich, Gionet, Harding, Higgins, Ladd, Massimilla, Mulholland, Pastor-Bodmer, Piper, Smith, Sykes, Townsend and White were in favor. Representative Lauer abstained due to a conflict of interest The motion passed 21 to 0.

10:17AM Rep. Bailey requested a caucus Chairman White recessed the meeting for the purpose of party caucuses.

10:39AM Representative White reconvened the meeting.

Rep. White accepted requests from the public for input

Edward O'Brien stated he feels members of the General Court should be excluded from the running for County Commissioner because it would take away the representation to the General Court He feels that if Representative Lauer was chosen it would leave his town less represented in Concord.

Lora Goss stated that she is from Haverhill and is involved with the County Farm Bureau and the County Conservation Commission. She stated that she is here because she wanted to have a sense of what the Delegation is doing to replace Ray Burton. She conveyed that she is disappointed that the parties broke out in a caucus because the candidates should be judged on their individual skills not their party.

Rep. Gionet stated unfortunate that Ms. Goss would feel that way, there primary concern was that which Mr. O'Brien's spoke about regarding representation.

Rep. White stated that the two candidates would now have the chance to speak to the Delegation and give up to a 10 minute presentation.

Richard Long was then given 10 minutes to speak to the Delegation about why he felt he should be chosen to fill the position of Grafton County Commissioner for District #2. He noted his experience as a Belknap County Commissioner. He and his wife moved to Bath in 2011. Mr. Long was in banking for over forty (40) years.

Rep. White then opened the floor to the Delegation and public to ask any questions.

Rep. Doolan stated that one of our big concerns is the jail and asked Mr. Long how much experience he has had with the jail system.

Mr. Long stated that as far as what he can see here everything is done and it is a great place to be a Commissioner. He stated that he took notice during his tour of the jail the kitchen facility. They should take advantage of any opportunity to use inmate labor.

Edward O'Brien stated that Grafton County is the last County to have a farm. He asked Mr. Long what his views and intentions would be for the farm.

Mr. Long stated that he supports the farm 100%. He would look to it for education with the inmates.

Linda Lauer was then given 10 minutes to speak to the Delegation about why he felt he should be chosen to fill the position of Grafton County Commissioner for District #2. Ms. Lauer stated that she was a chemistry teacher at the U.S Naval Academy and then employed at Lockheed Martin. She said she developed a good deal of budget experience during her time managing projects for the defense contractor. Ms. Lauer promised to be bipartisan.

Rep. Bailey commended the Chairman and Executive Committee for doing a good job on bringing forward two wonderful candidates. He then went on to state that it is unfortunate that 2/3 of the delegation is from outside District 2 and they will be voting for someone to represent everyone in District 2.

Rep. Ladd stated he wanted to clear the air and the primary reason Republicans went into caucus was not to talk about one (1) candidate versus another. What they were talking about was the concern about statutory law. He stated that he had spoken previously with Representative Bailey about his concerns. Rep Ladd stated that he had contacted Deputy Secretary of State David Scanlan about this and he was advised that this is statutory law and if the representatives wanted to change it they could through legislation. He encouraged Rep Bailey to pursue that avenue.

Rep. White asked if there were any more comments from the Delegates. He stated they would now proceed to election process.

Rep. Doolan moved to have a ballot vote. Rep. Pastor-Bodmer seconded the motion. The Chair ruled that the ballot vote is appropriate. Robert's Rules stated the following regarding elections: if the bylaws do not state how a vote is to be taken a member can make an incidental motion regarding how to take the vote. The proper ways are voice, ballot, roll call or cumulative voting.

With no further discussion a roll call vote was taken by Acting Clerk Almy. Reps. Aguiar, Almy, Bailey, Benn, Cooney, Doolan, Ford, Friedrich, Gionet, Harding, Higgins, Ladd, Massimilla, Mulholland, Pastor-Bodmer, Piper, Smith, Sykes, Townsend and White were in favor Representative Lauer abstained. With the vote being 21-0 in favor and none in opposition the motion to ballot vote is adopted.

Rep. White stated that the Tellers Committee for the ballot vote will consist of Rep. Bailey, Rep. Higgins and Rep. Reilly

The Tellers Committee distributed one paper ballot to each representative present and voted. They then collected and tabulated the ballot votes.

Rep Reilly reported the vote totals for the Tellers Committee.

He stated that the total number of votes cast was 21 and all votes were legal. Vote totals were as follows:

Richard Long received four (4) votes.
Linda Lauer received 17

With the total being 17-4 Chairman White declared Linda Lauer the winner of the nomination for Grafton County District 2 Commissioner.

Linda Lauer was then sworn into office by Judge Vaughn

Rep. Benn Move to expend \$8,000 from the Register of Deeds equipment surcharge account for equipment in the registry.

Discussion:

Register of Deeds Kelley Monahan discussed the request for the transfer of funds with the Delegation.

With no further discussion a roll call vote was taken by Acting Clerk Almy. Reps. Aguiar, Almy, Bailey, Benn, Cooney, Doolan, Ford, Friedrich, Gionet, Harding, Higgins, Ladd, Massimilla, Mulholland, Pastor-Bodmer, Piper, Smith, Sykes, Townsend and White were in favor. Motion passes 21 to 0.

11:30AM with no further business Rep. Piper moved to adjourn the meeting. Rep. Ford seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rep. Suzanne Smith, Clerk