

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION
HELD ON THE 16TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2010

The Caddo Parish Commission met in legal and regular session on the above date at 3:30 p.m. in the Government Chamber with Mr. John Escude, President, presiding, and the following members in attendance, constituting a quorum: Commissioners Baker, Cox, Dominick, Epperson, Escude, Jenkins, Linn, Lynch, McCulloch, Pierson, Smith and Thibodeaux (12). ABSENT: None.

The invocation was given by Mr. Smith, and Mr. Linn led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The President stated the purpose of this special meeting as being to conduct interviews of the final four individuals who have gone through the Personnel Policies and Procedures Committee process and have qualified for final consideration for appointment to the position of Commission Clerk. He stated that those individuals are Mr. Todd Hopkins, Mrs. Veta Samuels, Ms. Deborah Sewell, and Mr. Mark Terry, all of whom were present and available for interview.

He asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to offer comments on this matter, and there was no one.

Mr. Thibodeaux asked if the Commission should conduct the interviews in executive session. President Escude said he did not think that necessary; historically such proceedings have been conducted in open session.

Ms. Lynch disagreed, moving that the interviews be conducted in executive session, seconded by Mr. Thibodeaux.

Mr. Epperson stated that the agenda for this meeting also states that following the interviews the Commission will then make its selection for the position. He said that the electronic mail message he had received about the meeting did not mention that the selection would be made at the meeting. Also, he said, the Commission Clerk selection process has to this point been conducted by the Personnel Policies Committee, but he has not been presented any formal report or recommendations from the Committee. He said that he is not at a point where he is ready to make a selection.

Ms. Lynch said that she feels all Commissioners were aware of the Committee's objective, to narrow a large list of candidates down to a few. She said she also believes the interviews at least should proceed, as some of the candidates are from out of town.

Mr. Jenkins offered an amendment, seconded by Ms. Lynch, *that the interviews be conducted at this meeting, with final selection to be made in two weeks. He said he would benefit from extra time to consider his final choice.*

Mr. Cox, chairman of the Personnel Policies Committee, said that the Committee's work was done in an orderly fashion over a period of time. The four people to be presented at this meeting are the best of the 300-plus candidates, regardless of whatever lack of communication might have occurred. There is no need to delay the selection, he said.

After further procedural debate, Mrs. McCulloch withdrew her second to Mr. Epperson's motion. Mr. Epperson then withdrew his motion.

Mr. Jenkins amended his motion, stating *that the Commission should proceed with interviews, but delay selection for two weeks at the Commission's next meeting, or a special meeting.* Ms. Lynch agreed, stating that some Commissioners will have to base their decision on what they see and hear at this meeting, as opposed to those Commissioners who have been part of the process from the beginning.

Mr. Pierson said that in reality, members of the Committee have also had only one viewing of the candidates in order to get to this point.

Mr. Cox said that postponing the selection will be inconsiderate of the candidates and will only cause problems.

At this time Mr. Jenkins' motion failed with Commissioners Dominick, Smith, Thibodeaux, Escude, Pierson, Linn and Cox voting "No".

Mr. Jenkins then made a new motion, seconded by Ms. Lynch, *that the Commission proceed with the interviews at this meeting, and then make a selection at the Thursday meeting.*

Mr. Dominick said that he sees no reason why the Commission should not conduct the interviews and make a selection at this meeting. To not do so will be unfair to some of the candidates, he said.

Mr. Jenkins' second motion then failed with Commissioners McCulloch, Dominick, Smith,

Thibodeaux, Escude, Baker, Pierson and Cox voting "No."

President Escude said that by virtue of the failure of any motions to delay selection the meeting would proceed according to the agenda.

It was **moved by Mr. Thibodeaux**, seconded by Mr. Smith, *that the Commission recess into executive session to conduct candidate interviews*. That motion carried and the Commission went into closed session.

At the conclusion of the closed deliberations it was moved by Mr. Thibodeaux, seconded by Mr. Cox, that the Commission return to open session. Motion carried.

At this time the President stated that the Commission would proceed to vote to select the new Commission Clerk. He stated that the vote would proceed alphabetically on each of the four candidates, those being Mr. Hopkins, Mrs. Samuels, Ms. Sewell and Mr. Terry. He said that the first candidate to receive seven or more votes would be the choice for the position.

On the ensuing vote, Mr. Hopkins received seven votes, those being by Commissioners Cox, Dominick, Escude, Linn, Pierson, Smith and Thibodeaux (7). There being no necessity for additional votes, Mr. Hopkins was declared to be the Commission Clerk-elect.

President Escude congratulated Mr. Hopkins upon his selection, and he thanked the other finalists for their participation in this process.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

John Escude
President

Jerry C. Spears
Commission Clerk