

Board Conference Room
April 4, 2022
Board of Commissioners Minutes

The special meeting of the Oceana County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairperson Walker at 2:00 p.m. The purpose of this meeting was to conduct a second interview for the position of Oceana County Administrator.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Chairperson Walker.

Roll was called by the Clerk. Present: Ms. Meyette, Mr. Erickson, Mr. Christians, Mr. Beggs, Mr. Hardy, and Mr. Walker. Absent: Mr. Morse.

Dr. Sobie, Oceana County Administrator; Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk; Ms. Tracy Byard, interview candidate; Ms. Peggy Wittman, City of Hart resident; Mr. Richard Rafaelli, Shelby Township resident and Shelby Township Supervisor; and Mr. Dennis Powers, Hart City resident, were also present.

Chairperson Walker asked if any commissioners wished to declare a conflict of interest on the agenda items. No conflicts were declared.

Chairman Walker asked if there were any changes to the agenda.

Moved by Mr. Erickson and supported by Mr. Christians to approve the agenda as presented.

Voice vote. Motion carried.

The applicant to be interviewed for the position of County Administrator was Ms. Tracy Byard.

Each commissioner chose specific areas in which to pose their questions.

Ms. Byard's interview concluded at 2:40 p.m.

Discussion ensued to determine what the preference of the Board was. The determination of the Board was to offer the position of County Administrator to Ms. Byard. Dr. Sobie was then directed to enter into negotiations with Ms. Byard.

RESOLUTION NO. 1 - APPROVING AN EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR A COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Moved by Mr. Erickson and seconded by Mr. Christians to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the "County Boards of Commissioners Act," Public Act 156 of 1851, grants a Board of Commissioners certain powers, one of which is to enter into an employment agreement with the appointed chief administrative officer of the county; and

WHEREAS, the Oceana County Administrator position is the appointed chief administrative officer of the county; and

WHEREAS, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners desires to enter into an employment agreement with Ms. Tracy Byard to serve as the Oceana County Administrator for a three (3) year term commencing on a date to be determined; and

WHEREAS, an employment agreement was presented to Ms. Tracy Byard and is under review.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that upon acceptance of the employment agreement by Ms. Tracy Byard, the Oceana County Board of Commissioners hereby approves a three (3) year employment agreement with Ms. Tracy Byard to serve as the Oceana County Administrator.

Roll call vote: Mr. Erickson – yes; Mr. Christians – yes; Ms. Meyette - yes; Mr. Hardy – yes; Mr. Beggs – yes; and Mr. Walker – yes. Absent: Mr. Morse.

Motion carried.

Public Comment

Ms. Peggy Wittman, Hart City resident, inquired what Ms. Byard’s views of a citizen’s right to freedom of speech during public comment was.

Mr. Richard Rafaelli, Shelby Township resident and Shelby Township Supervisor, noted that he felt Ms. Byard answered the questions posed to her today very well. He stated that he is an advocate of freedom of speech, however, he offered that this county should be a leader and be kinder so that others will follow.

Mr. Dennis Powers, Hart City resident and former Board Chairperson, stated that public boards have rules on how the meetings can be addressed including time limits that must be followed. He stated that the rules are to be respected by the public as well. The rules for this board have been published and are available.

Chairperson Walker asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

Amy L. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk

Date

Mr. Walker, Chairperson