

**Agenda Item #1
for
September 17, 2019**

**Replacement Page #9
for Attachment #1**

CONSENT

1. Minutes: May 28, 2019 Regular Meeting and June 18, 2019 Regular Meeting
(Clerk of Courts)

Speakers:

- Dianne Williams Cox, 2312 Mavis Circle, encouraged the Board to approve Option 1. She commented it had been the precedent to hire from within and noted it had been the common practice. She voiced how they should have had a process in place before now. She felt Attorney Riggins should have the opportunity to serve as County Attorney. She asked that they save taxpayer dollars and move Option 1.
- Attorney Mutaqee Akbar, 2633 Neuchatel Drive, waived in support of Option 1.
- Attorney Matthew Williams, 1963 Gina Drive, waived in support of Option 1.
- Gwen Marshall, Clerk of Court and Comptroller, waived in support of Option 1.

Commissioner Lindley expressed appreciation to County Attorney Thiele for his legal guidance. She discussed the transparency and professionalism needed to solicit outside applications. She too voiced concerns and cautioned the importance of the decision. She noted it would be good to talk about what the County needs. She reflected on narrowing the search down to 3-5 candidates for the Board to consider would be a move in the right direction.

Commissioner Lindley moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Desloge, for approval of Option 2) Direct County Administration, with the assistance of the County Attorney's Office, to draft an advertisement for publication locally and in professional legal publications with a deadline to be determined for submission of applications for the position of County Attorney. If this option is chosen, the Board would be required to decide between reviewing the applications themselves or creating a selection committee to narrow the applications to a shortlist of applicants for interview by the Board.

Commissioner Desloge acknowledged Attorney Thiele for his sound leadership throughout the years. He stated this would be one of the biggest decisions to come before the Board. He expressed the need to look hard and take the long, methodical approach concerning this hire. He confirmed how he would gladly support if the national search chose the in-house applicant.

Commissioner Dozier noted they should have discussed this policy before now. She reflected upon the hiring of the County Administrator and shared the Board had only made three hires since then. She voiced hiring by an elected body should always allow for a process that allows for public input.

Commissioner Dozier offered a friendly amendment: To develop a policy for future hires by the Board. It was accepted by Commissioner Lindley.

Commissioner Dozier expressed her concerns about previous hires by local governments and hoped what they are suggesting would increase diversity going forward.

Commissioner Proctor recalled that the Board did not do a national search with the hiring of the present County Administrator. He further reflected on the need for diversity in leadership positions and the County's practice of hiring from within. He expressed his support for the hiring of Deputy County Attorney LaShawn Riggans. He shared how he supported the continuity she would provide. He advocated for Option 1.

Commissioner Minor acknowledged everyone who had provided comments on this issue. He noted that during his six months in office, he had not yet had an opportunity to interact with or work with the Deputy County Attorney. He stated that Option 2 would therefore be most helpful to him in deciding whether the Deputy County Attorney would be the best choice.