

Patterson Township Board of Commissioners

Special Meeting

March 6, 2023

The Patterson Township Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Monday, March 6, 2023 at 3:30 pm at the Municipal Complex, 1600 19th Avenue. The purpose of this Special Meeting was advertised to be held for the Board to hold a vote to appoint an applicant to fill the vacancy on the Board of Commissioners. Following the call to order, roll call showed Commissioners Wagoner, Bartoe, Eckelberger, and Inman, were present.

On February 6, 2023 Commissioner Greg DeLuca passed away leaving a vacancy on the Board to be filled thru the end of his term (Dec 2023). According to the 1st Class Township Code, the vacancy is to be filled within 30 days. As a result of posting the vacancy on the Township's website we received 4 letters of interest:

Christopher Jolliffe - 612 Darlington Road
Steve Kretschman - 202 17th Ave Ext.
Eric Hoover - 1608 Ross Hill Road
Joe Kristian - 2608 19th Street

On Wednesday March 1, 2023 the 4 Commissioners, along with the Vacancy Board Member, Tom Reed, and Township Secretary, Christin Milnes, met with all 4 candidates individually. No discussion was held in order to comply with the Sunshine Act.

A special meeting was scheduled for March 6 to hopefully fill the vacancy. In the event of a tie or no candidate being appointed, the vacancy Board, made up of the 4 Commissioners and Mr. Reed will have 15 days (after March 8th when the 30 days expires) to fill the position. This will also have to be an advertised public meeting.

That being said the meeting was opened up for discussion prior to taking nominations. Commissioner Bartoe commented that there were 4 qualified candidates who submitted letters of interest. He also acknowledged that the Township is fortunate to be in a position to review qualifications from multiple individuals in today's climate. Commissioner Eckelberger stated that due to the current situation, she is also impressed with the 4 candidates who submitted letters to the Board. Commissioner Inman consented with the previous comments, and stated he was torn between two candidates, one who has experience with engineering and road programs who he feels he could train to take over this department, and one who has done great work in the park and he is afraid would "walk away" if not selected. Commissioner Eckelberger assured Commissioner Inman that this candidate would not "walk away" from the park if not selected. Commissioner Eckelberger went on to say she has concerns that 2 of the candidates have not attended meetings therefore would not be able to vote on the current issues as they have no experience or knowledge of the conversations or discussions from the previous meetings and lack of involvement with the Township. With this being said, she felt that the top candidates were Eric Hoover and Chris Jolliffe due to meeting attendance. Commissioner Wagoner agreed that there were 4 great candidates and continued that all have positive attributes that could benefit the Township. Commissioner Wagoner also stated that she felt any of the candidates could jump in and hit the ground running, and would be able to be brought up to speed so they

could make educated decisions on the matters that come before the Board. Commissioner Eckelberger stated again that if someone is running in the election that they would have several months to prepare and become familiar with the Township Code and the history of the Township. She stated again that whomever is chosen will need to be able to vote next month on issues that they may have no knowledge of due to not attending any meetings or having any knowledge of current expenditures. Commissioner Bartoe stated that what Kathy is explaining is exactly what happened to him, and he feels that any one of the applicants would be able to make this transition and be able to jump in with both feet and be able to address what is needed at a moment's notice.

Vacancy Board Member Tom Reed stated that the backgrounds of all 4 men were impressive, and their experiences in the business would assist with any of them being able to jump in and hit the ground running. He stated that he was impressed with the backgrounds and experiences of all 4 candidates.

At this time Commissioner Wagoner opened the floor for nominations:

Commissioner Eckelberger nominated Chris Jolliffe
Commissioner Bartoe nominated Steve Kretschman

Commissioner Wagoner asked if there were any additional nominations; with no additional nominations being made, Commissioner Eckelberger made a motion to close the nominations; seconded by Commissioner Bartoe; nominations were closed. Commissioner Wagoner advised that the vote would be held via a voice/roll call vote; Commissioner Bartoe casted his vote for Steve Kretschman; Commissioner Eckelberger casted her vote for Chris Jolliffe; Commissioner Inman casted his vote for Steve Kretschman; Commissioner Wagoner casted her vote for Steve Kretschman. Votes were as follow: Chris Jolliffe – 1 and Steve Kretschman – 3.

Commissioner Bartoe made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-007 to appoint Steve Kretschman as Commissioner to fill the vacancy created by the passing of Gregory DeLuca; seconded by Commissioner Inman. After a Roll call vote; Pass unanimously.

Commissioner Wagoner thanked Tom Reed for his interest and attendance with this matter.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, motion was made by Commissioner Bartoe to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner Inman. The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Christin Lyn Milnes
Township Secretary

Copy: Kenneth G. Fawcett, Esq.
Larry Lennon, Jr., P.E.
Board of Commissioners