

**Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners
Reconvened Meeting
July 14, 2017**

The Reconvened Meeting of the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners was called to order in the Commissioners Room by Chairman John B. Wallace at 9:30 a.m.

Roll called and a quorum present.

PRESENT: Commissioners Richard Sangster, Michael Newman, Cal Gouine, Roberta Matelski, John Wallace, and Robert Bolinger.

ABSENT: None – District #1 Seat Vacant

Commissioner Wallace gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Commissioner Sangster seconded by Commissioner Bolinger to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried with 6 yes, 0 no and 0 absent.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Tom Redmon President of Tube Fab/Roman Engineering gave his recommendation and support for Karen Johnson as District #1 County Commissioner. He stated that he found her to be very knowledgeable when it came to things like building codes and zoning ordinances. She had a very good sense of what's right and wrong. As her employer, he understood the time commitments involved in this position.

Paul Blome Vice President of Finance and Administration of Tub Fab/Roman Engineering gave his support for Karen Johnson. He stated that she was a very well thought out person. She would consider both sides of any argument and do her best to come up with a fair judgment.

Anabel Dwyer spoke on behalf of Vincent Lumetta and gave her support. She stated that he ran for County Commissioner against Commissioner Chris Brown. She stated that he would be a very committed person for the future of Cheboygan County and the Board of Commissioners.

Dale Forester Inverness Township Resident gave his support for Vincent Lumetta. He stated that he had worked with Mr.Lumetta for a long time on different projects and committees. He was extremely intelligent and soft spoken, but firm when he had to be. Mr. Lumetta would get things done and also would work well with the Board.

David Dwyer a neighbor of Vincent Lumetta gave his support for his candidacy.

Christopher Kress a resident of Cheboygan County gave his support for Vincent Lumetta and stated that he would do an excellent job as County Commissioner.

INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT #1 COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Chairman Wallace stated that the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners would be following the procedures of Public Act 261 of 1966 and he introduced the following candidates interested in the appointment as County Commissioner for District #1: Patrick Bell, Anthony M. Damiano, Steven F. Gofourth, Karen P. Johnson, Vincent J. Lumetta, and Mary Ellen Tryban.

CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

Each of the six (6) candidates (Patrick Bell was absent) were given an opportunity to introduce themselves and to answer any questions. Most of the candidates indicated if they were to run for the seat next year that they would run on the Republican ticket.

DISCUSSION OF CANDIDATES

Commissioner Wallace thanked each candidate for their commitment given to the community and their willingness to want to provide more. This appointment was to fill the position of the Board, which was a seat recently vacated by former Board Chair Chris Brown, who left to take another municipal position downstate. Committee meetings run from Alpena to Grayling with some being held in Lansing.

Commissioner Sangster stated that was the toughest decision that the Board has had to make. As with Karen Johnson being employed in the southern part of the County and lives in the north end, she would have a well-rounded opportunity to see that. Everyone needs to be represented equally. There were a lot of good applicants who brought assets to the Board.

Commissioner Gouine stated that all the applicants were well qualified. The commitment of a commissioner was great. As commissioner with a business owner it was demanding, but if he could do it, the applicants could also. One good thing for the applicants, they were working with other people and intermingling with different people so they would have a broader understanding of what's going on.

Commissioner Newman stated that Tony Damiano who retired from the Prosecuting Attorney's Office would be an asset to the Board.

ACTION ON APPOINTMENT OF CANDIDATE

Motion by Commissioner Newman, seconded by Commissioner Matelski, to appoint Tony Damiano for County Commissioner District #1.

Motion by Commissioner Bolinger, seconded by Commissioner Sangster to appoint Mary Ellen Tryban for County Commissioner District #1.

Motion by Commissioner Gouine seconded by Commissioner Wallace to appoint Karen Johnson for County Commissioner District #1.

Motion by Commissioner Wallace to appoint Steven Gofourth for County Commissioner District #1. The motion did not receive support and died for lack of support.

Commissioner Wallace stated that there were three (3) nominations for Commissioner.

Motion by Commissioner Newman seconded by Commissioner Matelski, to appoint Tony Damiano for County Commissioner District #1. A roll call vote was taken. Motion did not carry with 2 yes, 4 no (Commissioners Sangster, Gouine, Wallace and Bolinger) and 0 absent.

Motion by Commissioner Gouine, seconded by Commissioner Sangster, to appoint Karen Johnson for County Commissioner District #1. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with 4 yes, 2 no (Commissioner Newman and Bolinger) and 0 absent.

Commissioner Wallace stated Karen Johnson would fill the vacancy until the election on November 6, 2018 and thanked the other applicants.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Applicant Vincent Lumetta congratulated Karen Johnson on her appointment, saying “It looks good to get some youth on the Board”. He commented to the Board of Commissioners that the community was disappointed to have a Board solely made up of one political party. This was not what democracy looked like. There was a great opportunity to move the needle and reach out to the community as show that there were some aggressive attitudes and the Board failed to do so.

Applicant Mary Ellen Tryban congratulated Karen Johnson and wished all of the Commissioners good luck in the rest of their term.

Applicant Tony Damiano congratulated Karen Johnson. He thanked the Board for considering all the applicants and wished the Board good luck.

County Clerk Karen Brewster gave the Oath of Office to Karen Johnson as the newly appointed County Commissioner for District #1.

Motion by Commissioner Sangster seconded by Commissioner Newman, to adjourn to the call of the chairperson. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

Karen L. Brewster
Cheboygan County Clerk/Register

John B. Wallace
Chairperson Board of Commissioners