

The Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners held a special, teleconference meeting on this date. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Reetz at 5:30 p.m. Present: Scott, Reetz, Vaughn, Neubecker, and David.

The purpose of the meeting is to interview candidates for the County Administrator position. Jerry Richards, Executive Recruiter for the Michigan Municipal League (MML), introduced the first candidate, Tracy Byard, to the board.

He proceeded to ask her a series of questions that would be used for all candidates. Ms. Byard provided historical information to the board concerning her professional experience/education. She was asked how county revenues could be increased; why she applied for this position – would like a new challenge; the biggest challenge would be getting to know everyone. Her strongest skills are budgetary work and human resources. She noticed via the county audit our general fund balance is quite low. There was discussion about county ballot proposals being presented to the electorate. Various other questions were asked of Ms. Byard. She was given the opportunity to ask questions...she had none for the commissioners. She thanked the board for the interview. She would be excited to be a part of our community.

Mr. Richards introduced the next candidate, Tim Dolehanty, to the board. The same questions were asked of Mr. Dolehanty as the previous candidate. He explained why he was interested in Ogemaw County. He shared how he had implemented various programs with his previous employer. He indicated the first ninety days would be spent getting to know the county stakeholders, i.e. elected official's/department heads. He would review policies and the budget. He noticed the county general fund balance is only about 2% and it should be more like 16-17%. With regard to county ballot proposals, he believes a county administrator should be out in the public and present the need and ballot proposal information. He has a strong ethical belief. The budget is a model for indicating what the board's operational priorities would be. He had a good working relationship with the collective bargaining units with his previous employer. He provided examples of intra-governmental collaboration and his I.T. experiences. He indicated there is nothing in his background that should be an issue for the county. He thanked the board for the opportunity to interview with them. Lastly, he indicated if hired, he would commit to two years of work with the county.

Mr. Richards introduced the last interview candidate, Darcy Long. The questioning process began with Mr. Long sharing his professional background and experience. He believed the biggest challenge would be to become familiar with the elected official dynamic. His strong suit of skills would be budgetary and human resources. He would review county policies and revise as necessary. He would set up priorities based on the county board's direction. He dealt with five labor unions at his last place of employment. He shared an example of collaboration with two local municipalities during his last tenure of employment. He has much experience with grant acquisition and oversight. His experience working with E.D.C. is quite varied and he was successful in this area. He believes budget is the number one priority with strategic planning. He thanked the board for the interview.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Brenda Simmons encouraged the board to take its time making a decision on whom to hire for the county administrator position.

Mr. Richards encouraged the board to deliberate about the candidates while things are still fresh in their minds. He suggested each member list their top two candidates. Chairman Reetz indicated he thought Mr. Dolehanty and Ms. Byard were his two choices. He believes Mr. Dolehanty has great experience and knowledge. Commissioner Neubecker stated Mr. Dolehanty has great experience and knowledge. He would be a great team player. Commissioner Vaughn stated Mr. Dolehanty by far was the most knowledgeable and believes he would help us most. Commissioner David stated she was impressed with Mr. Dolehanty but is unsure about his level of community involvement. Commissioner Scott stated Mr. Dolehanty was professional with all of his answers. He contacted Ingham County board chair and vice-chairman and they were sorry to see him leave their employment.

Motion by Scott, second by Neubecker, the Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners extend a conditional offer of employment to Timothy Dolehanty and direct the MML to complete a background investigation and conduct further reference review. Roll call vote. Ayes – Scott, Reetz, Vaughn, Neubecker, and David. Motion carried. [4-2-#1]

Mr. Richards explained how Michigan Municipal League would perform the background check for Mr. Dolehanty. A question was raised about a job description being provided to Mr. Dolehanty. Mr. Richards stated he can provide a draft job description to the board.

Motion by Reetz, second by Neubecker, the Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners authorize Commissioner Scott to initiate discussions with Tim Dolehanty on terms of a mutually acceptable employment agreement. Such contract will be presented to the Board of Commissioners for approval prior to signatures. Roll call vote. Ayes – Reetz, Vaughn, Neubecker, David, and Scott. Motion carried. [4-2-#2]

Mr. Richards stated he can provide a draft employment agreement that has been legally vetted by MML.

Chairman Reetz thanked the commissioners, Mr. Richards and the public for listening into the meeting.

Motion by Neubecker, second by David, the meeting be adjourned. Voice vote. Ayes – all. Motion carried. [4-2-#3]

Chairman Reetz adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Attest: Gary R. Klacking, Ogemaw County Clerk.
Minutes by Gary R. Klacking, Ogemaw County Clerk.