



Cassia County Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Chambers

1459 Overland Ave.

Burley, ID 83318

www.cassiacounty.org

Board Chairman:

Dennis Crane

Phone: (208) 878-7302

Fax: (208) 878-9109

Board Members:

Paul Christensen (District #1) ~ pchristensen@cassiacounty.org

Bob Kunau (District #2) ~ bob.kunau@cassiacounty.org

Dennis Crane (District #3) ~ dcrane@cassiacounty.org

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

The Board of Cassia County Commissioners met in a special session on Tuesday, July 15, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioner Chambers of the Cassia County Courthouse.

THOSE PRESENT: County Commissioners: Dennis Crane, Chairman
Paul Christensen
Bob Kunau
Clerk of the Board: Susan M. Keck, Deputy Clerk

1) 7:00 PM CALL TO ORDER

- a) The purpose of this special meeting of the Board was to interview the remaining two proposed candidates submitted by the Cassia Republican Central Committee for consideration of appointment to complete the term of office of Cassia County Prosecutor that will be vacated on August 31, 2014, by the resignation of Elected Prosecutor, Al Barrus.
- b) The preferred candidates in the order of submission to the Board from the Republican Central Committee are:
 - a) Douglas Abenroth
 - b) Paul Ross
 - c) Stan Holloway
- c) Chairman Crane opened the meeting and acknowledged the Board had previously interviewed Douglas Abenroth during Monday's regular session of the Board. Their desire was to meet and interview the remaining two candidates whose names were submitted for consideration.

2) 7:02 PM PAUL ROSS INTERVIEW

- a) Commissioner Christensen asked Ross his feelings regarding capital crimes and their economic impact on counties. Ross acknowledged that capital crime prosecution is expensive but having personal experience as a victim, he believed in prosecution to fullest extent of the law for intentional crimes.
- b) Commissioner Kunau asked Ross about his intentions regarding conducting outside private practice of law and any potential conflicts or time constraints. Ross indicated that he would dedicate his full attention to this position and would negotiate to sell his private practice.

CASSIA COUNTY COMMISSION

SPECIAL SESSION

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

1 | Page

- c) Commissioner Christensen asked Ross to describe his experience in civil cases. Ross enumerated his varied experience in civil practice.
 - d) Chairman Crane asked Ross to share his vision for running the Prosecutor's office, dealing with civil and criminal issues and structure for deputies.
 - e) Chairman Crane asked Ross how he envisioned running the office and if he planned to run for election should he be appointed to this position. Ross indicated he would be fully invested and involved with his department. He expressed concerns he received from many members of the Republican Central Committee of the need to defer County legal matters to the Prosecutor rather than the County Administrator. He also felt the need to reorganize and equalize caseload among deputies and he would run for election if appointed.
 - f) The Board had discussion with Ross regarding the additional benefit of student loan forgiveness this position would afford.
 - g) Commissioner Christensen asked Ross his thoughts on the current Adult Misdemeanor Probation program. He felt resources should be used for salary enhancement, training of staff, and an enhancement for rehabilitation to reduce recidivism rate but that they do a fairly good job.
- 3) 7:27 PM STAN HOLLOWAY INTERVIEW
- a) Commissioner Christensen asked Holloway his feelings about the current environment regarding processing capital crimes and the death penalty. He has dealt with that in Twin Falls County and he strives for an appropriate sentence, balancing the best decision of all parties involved. He is aware of cost ramifications but is in support of the death penalty.
 - b) Commissioner Kunau noted Holloway's well-rounded career and asked what brought him to this area. His wife took a position with the Cassia School District and he spent his early years in Blackfoot.
 - c) Commissioner Christensen asked Holloway what his intentions would be regarding private practice of law if appointed. He has not had a private practice for over ten years and does not intend to establish one.
 - d) Chairman Crane asked Holloway if he intended to run for election at the conclusion of the appointed term if he was chosen. He described his previous election campaigning experience in eastern Idaho and intends to run for election if appointed.
 - e) Commissioner Christensen inquired about Holloway's civil experience. Holloway explained his civil experience dealing with personal injury, wills, and bankruptcy.
 - f) Commissioner Christensen asked Holloway what his opinion was regarding time spent doing research and if he enjoyed it or deemed it a task. Holloway enjoys doing his own research.
 - g) Chairman Crane asked Holloway what his plans would be for staffing regarding the other deputy prosecutors. Holloway would analyze the strengths and weaknesses of deputies and would bring depth and breadth of experience to the position.
 - h) Commissioner Christensen asked Holloway what his opinion was of the Adult Misdemeanor Probation program. He is aware of how it works in Twin Falls and understands the need for appropriate resources to conduct that office.
 - i) Chairman Crane asked Holloway how he would envision working with two deputies and balancing civil and criminal cases.
 - ii) Commissioner Kunau asked Holloway what he felt could be done to reduce prison population. Holloway indicated that even though sentencing is up to the judge's discretion, specialty courts can be successful in some instances. He was of the opinion that DUI convictions should involve more incarceration.

iii) Commissioner Christensen asked Holloway if he would be available to all elected officials or if he would delegate those duties to deputies. Holloway indicated that he would delegate some duties depending on workload but would be primarily involved with elected official issues.

4) 7:52 PM DELIBERATION AND POSSIBLE DECISION ON APPOINTMENT

a) The Board deliberated on consideration of appointment of the three candidates, including recommendations received from the Cassia Republican Central Committee, the strengths and weaknesses of each of the applicants, and the responses that each gave to the various questions asked from the Board.

8:15 PM

MOTION: COMMISSIONER CHRISTENSEN MOVED TO APPOINT DOUGLAS ABENROTH AS COUNTY PROSECUTOR. COMMISSIONER KUNAU SECONDED THE MOTION. A ROLL CALL VOTE TOOK PLACE WITH COMMISSIONER CHRISTENSEN VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE, COMMISSIONER KUNAU VOTING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE, AND CHAIRMAN CRANE ABSTAINING. THE MOTION CARRIED.

iv) 8:17 PM ADJOURNMENT

APPROVED:

/s/ _____

Dennis Crane, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

/s/ _____

Joseph W. Larsen, Clerk of the Board