

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
AN EMERGENCY MEETING
OF THE COUNTY BOARD
LAKE COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

Tuesday, October 20, 2020. Lake County Board of Commissioners' meeting was held as a virtual meeting. At virtual meetings of the Lake County Board of Commissioners, board actions are by roll call vote if any board members are participating from a remote location. Unless otherwise stated, all actions have been approved by unanimous yeas vote.

Lake County Board members present in the Lake County Service Center, Split Rock River Room (SRRR), 616 Third Avenue, Two Harbors, Minnesota: District 1 Commissioner Peter "Pete" R. Walsh, District 2 Commissioner Derrick "Rick" L. Goutermont, District 4 Commissioner Jeremy M. Hurd and District 5 Commissioner Rich Sve. County Board member present by remote video communications: District 3 Commissioner Richard "Rick" C. Hogenson. County Board members absent: None. Also present by remote video communications: Lake County Administrator Matthew Huddleston, Clerk of the Board Laurel D. Buchanan, County Auditor Linda Libal and County Attorney Russ Conrow.

The emergency meeting was made available to the public to join remotely by telephone by dialing 1-888-742-5095 and entering Participant Code: 7635925916. Board Chairperson Rich Sve announced that the phone line is in listen-only mode. No public comments will be taken over the phone. Written comments are welcome and may be submitted in writing by email to clerk.board@co.lake.mn.us or by United States Postal Service (USPS) mail addressed to Lake County Service Center, Attn: County Administrator Matthew Huddleston, 616 Third Avenue, Two Harbors, MN 55616.

Lake County buildings are closed to the public due to the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic. In-person attendance is not allowed at this time. The public may be allowed into Lake County facilities by appointment only. Constituent Tim Jezierski requested to attend in-person; this was allowed with the requirements of attendees wearing face coverings and maintaining physical distance of a minimum of six feet between attendees.

Board Chairperson Rich Sve called the Emergency Meeting to order at 3:28 PM, with all board members present. The purpose of the emergency meeting is for the Lake County Board of Commissioners to make changes to the appointments to the 2020 General Election Absentee Ballot Board. The meeting is being called because of circumstances that, in the judgment of the Chairman require immediate consideration by the Board of Commissioners.

Board Chairperson Rich Sve reviewed that Lake County Auditor Linda Libal has requested to add names to the 2020 General Election Absentee Ballot Board. Lake County has also received inquiries requesting that people from the two major political parties to serve on that board. County Auditor Linda Libal advised that the process of opening absentee ballots is set to begin on Wednesday, October 21, 2020, at 10:00 AM. County Auditor Linda Libal received names from the caucus chairs of both major political parties. Ms. Libal provided a primer on the process that is followed when an absentee ballot is received. County Attorney Russ Conrow advised that this process has been in place for many years.

This year we have seen a significant increase in the volume of absentee ballots, in part due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the increase in volume and receiving feedback from concerned citizens, Lake County is in favor of adding election judges to this process and board. Lake County constituent Mr. Tim Jezierski reviewed his concerns about the process. County Attorney Russ Conrow advised that Mr. Jezierski along with others have served Lake County with a Petition for Writ of Quo Warranto and we are in litigation.

MOTION GOUTERMONT, SECOND WALSH: 02 – Authorize the following names to be added to the 2020 General Election Absentee Ballot Board: Marlys Wisch, Jennifer Havlick, Julia Jaeger, John Bathke, Cynthia Ortman, William Ortman, and John Bonk. In the roll call vote, county commissioners voted as follows. Yea: Walsh, Goutermont, Hogenson, Hurd, Sve. Nay: None. Absent: None.

The Emergency Meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM.

ATTEST:

Laurel D. Buchanan
Clerk of the Board

Rich Sve, Board Chairperson
Lake County Board of Commissioners