

**HOUGHTON COUNTY APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE 2021
SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 25, 2021**

The Houghton County Appointment Committee held a Special Committee meeting on Wednesday, August 25, 2021, in the 5th Floor Conference room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton.

Call to Order:

Brittany Bulleit called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call:

The following Committee members responded to roll call done by Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk: Fraser Strome-Probate Judge, Brittany Bulleit-Prosecuting Attorney and Jennifer Kelly-County Clerk.

Approval of Agenda:

Brittany Bulleit asked to add the procedures and interview questions in between Agenda items #8-9.

A Motion was made by Judge Strome and a second was made by Jennifer Kelly to approve the Agenda with the one (1) addition.

The Motion carried by a voice vote: Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Approval of Minutes:

A Motion was made by Brittany Bulleit and seconded by Fraser Strome to approve the July 30, 2021 minutes are presented.

Roll call:

The Motion carried by a voice vote: Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Public Comment:

Glenn Anderson addressed the Committee. Glenn asked if the appointed candidate will have to run in 2022. Jennifer Kelly and Brittany Bulleit said yes. Glenn asked if one of the interview questions could be to see how many of the candidates will run again in 2022, or 2024. Glenn requested the Committee read each letter from each of the candidates. Glenn discussed the starting salary of the Sheriff.

Brittany closed the public comments.

Discussion of Letters and Resumes for Appointment of Houghton County Sheriff:

Brittany Bulleit asked Jennifer Kelly to open the 7 envelopes.

Brittany Bulleit read the following candidates to the public:

Brian Cadwell
Steve Laux
Adam Rajala
Josh Saaranen
Tami Sleeman
Marc Geborkoff
Kevin Coppo

Selection of candidates to interview:

Brittany Bulleit asked if the Committee wished to interview all candidates. Fraser Strome stated the criteria for sheriff is that the candidate is an adult and questioned if the Committee should set minimum criteria. Brittany stated most candidates have worked in law enforcement. Jennifer Kelly stated that all candidates are in law enforcement. The Committee agreed to interview all seven (7).

A Motion was made by Jennifer Kelly and seconded by Fraser Strome to interview all seven (7) candidates.

The Motion carried by a voice vote: Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Procedure & interview questions:

Procedure: The Committee will determine the interview questions, order of interviews, references.

The Committee agreed to do all seven (7) interviews at one meeting.

Brittany Bulleit stated she had 4 questions and Fraser Strome stated he had a series of questions that had been asked by the League of Women Voters during previous election cycles.

Fraser Strome read the interview questions he had.

Brittany Bulleit read the questions she had.

Fraser Strome recommended five (5) questions be the limit for the interviews.

Jennifer Kelly will get copies of all the candidate's letters and resumes to Fraser Strome and Brittany Bulleit.

Fraser Strome recommended getting all of the interviews done in one day. Brittany Bulleit and Jennifer Kelly agreed.

A Motion was made by Fraser Strome and seconded by Jennifer to interview all seven (7) candidates in one day and to conduct the interviews randomly.

The Motion carried by a voice vote: Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Interview questions:

1. Why do you want the position of Houghton County Sheriff?
2. What is your prior knowledge of how the Jail and Sheriff's Department operate?
3. What issues facing your community are of most concern for you?
4. What would you like to accomplish if appointed Sheriff?
5. What experience do you have in running the fiscal aspects of an office or business? What experience do you have in tapping available outside resources? (i.e. grants and other sources of funding).
6. Is there anything else you would like to add?

The Committee agreed to keep the interview questions consistent during the interviews.

References of candidates:

The Committee decided to accept written references or letters of recommendation until Monday, September 6, 2021. All written letters are to be submitted by mail or in person to Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk.

Set Next meeting date:

The Committee agreed to interview all seven (7) candidates on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 5:30 pm on the 5th floor of the courthouse in the Conference Room

A Motion was made by Jennifer Kelly and seconded by Fraser Strome to conduct all seven (7) interviews on September 8, 2021 at 5:30 pm.

The Motion carried by a voice vote: Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Public Comments:

Rodney Guilbault provided a handout to the Committee of all the passed Sheriffs in Houghton County.

Brittany Bulleit closed the meeting for public comments.

Jennifer Kelly is to call all candidates who are not in attendance to inform them of the interview meeting date, time, and location. Jennifer Kelly will post the meeting and Agendas on the courthouse doors and on the County website.

Adjournment:

Brittany Bulleit made a Motion to adjourn the meeting with a second from Jennifer Kelly 5:25 p.m..

The Motion carried by a voice vote: Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Brittany Bulleit

Jennifer Kelly