

BAY COUNTY APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE  
BAY COUNTY TREASURER VACANCY  
INTERVIEW SHAWNA WALRAVEN  
FEBRUARY 7, 2019

JUDGE MINER ANNOUNCED, WE ARE HERE FOR THE INTERVIEWS FOR THE VACANCY OF THE COUNTY TREASURER. ALL CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN ASKED TO APPEAR SEPARATELY, SO EACH CANDIDATE DOES NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS BEFORE ANY OTHER CANDIDATE.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH MCL 168.209(2) THE JUDGE OF THE PROBATE COURT, THE COUNTY CLERK AND PROSECUTING ATTORNEY SHALL CONVENE AND APPOINT A SUITABLE PERSON TO FILL A VACANCY WHEN A COUNTYWIDE ELECTED OFFICIAL WAS VACATED PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION OF THE TERM. THE COUNTY TREASURER, RICHARD BRZESINSKI, ANNOUNCED HIS RETIREMENT EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2019, THEREFORE, REQUIRING THE HOLDING OF THESE PROCEEDINGS PURSUANT TO THE OPEN MEETING ACT.

MEMBERS PRESENT BY VIRTUE OF THEIR OFFICE INCLUDE: JAN MINER, PROBATE JUDGE; CYNTHIA A. LUCZAK, COUNTY CLERK AND NANCY BORUSHKO, PROSECUTING ATTORNEY. THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 2:00 PM AT THE BAY COUNTY BUILDING, 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 515 CENTER AVENUE, BAY CITY MICHIGAN WITH THE FOLLOWING IN ATTENDANCE.

PRESENT: JAN MINER, PROBATE JUDGE  
CYNTHIA A. LUCZAK, COUNTY CLERK  
NANCY BORUSHKO, PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
BRANDON KRAUSE, REGISTER OF DEEDS  
TIFFANY JERRY, DIRECTOR PERSONNEL AND EMPLOYEE RELATIONS  
REBECCA MARSTERS, PAYROLL AND BENEFITS SUPERVISOR  
HOLLY KUKLA, DEPUTY TREASURER  
AMBER DAVIS-JOHNSON, CORPORATION COUNSEL

AS TWO (2) MEMBERS CONSTITUTED A QUORUM, IT WAS EMPHASIZED THAT DISCUSSION BETWEEN ANY TWO MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WAS PROHIBITED UNLESS AT AN OPEN PUBLIC MEETING. THIS, AND ALL FUTURE MEETINGS WOULD BE PUBLICALLY ANNOUNCED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT.

**CITIZENS INPUT**

THERE WERE NO CITIZENS PRESENT WHO WISHED TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE.

**INTERVIEW OF SHAWNA WALRAVEN:**

BOARD QUESTIONED CANDIDATE SHAWNA WALRAVEN, TO PROVIDE A SUMMARY OF HER BACKGROUND, EXPLAIN HER MOST RECENT POSITION AND HER PRIOR EMPLOYMENT HISTORY.

CANDIDATE WALRAVEN STATED THAT SHE HAD A BACKGROUND OF LEGAL AND FINANCIAL EXPERIENCE. SHE WORKED IN THE APPEALS DEPARTMENT OF THE IRS DURING LAW SCHOOL. SHE EXPRESSED THAT THIS EXPERIENCE WAS MOST LIKE THE TREASURERS OFFICE; WORKING WITH PEOPLE TO SOLVE PROBLEMS IN A CREATIVE WAY. MS. WALRAVEN CONTINUED THAT HER CURRENT POSITION WAS AS ASSISTANT CORPORATION COUNSEL WITH BAY COUNTY. AS PART OF HER DUTIES, MS. WALRAVEN HAD REPRESENTED THE TREASURERS OFFICE DURING THE FORECLOSURE PROCESS AND ADVISED ON ISSUES RELATED TO THE DELINQUENT TAX FUND. WALRAVEN STATED THAT SHE ADVISED THE BAY COUNTY LAND BANK AUTHORITY ALLOWING HER TO BE FAMILIAR WITH SOME OF THE MAJOR ASPECTS OF THE TREASURER'S ROLL.

THE BOARD STATED AS THE POSITION WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR LARGE SUMS OF MONEY, THEY ASKED MS. WALRAVEN TO TELL THEM ABOUT HER INVESTMENT AND FINANCIAL BACKGROUND AND HOW SHE PROPOSED TO IMPROVE THE OFFICE.

MS. WALRAVEN ANSWERED THAT SHE WAS CURRENTLY THE LEGAL ADVISOR FOR THE BAY COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND VIVA (THE RETIREES HEALTH CARE FUND). THE BAY COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEMS HAS IN EXCESS OF \$350,000,000 IN ASSETS AND VIVA HAS OVER \$50,000,000 WORTH OF ASSETS. CANDIDATE WALRAVEN DECLARED THAT IT WAS A VERY COMPLEX SYSTEM AND EMPLOYED A WIDE VARIETY OF INVESTMENT METHODS. DURING HER UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOLING ONE OF HER INTERNSHIPS WAS FOR AN INVESTMENT MANAGER, ADVISORY RESEARCH, INC. SHE WAS TASKED WITH THE JOB OF RECONCILING ALL OF THE PARTNERSHIPS ACCOUNTS. MS. WALRAVEN STATED THAT SHE WAS AWARE THAT THE COUNTY TREASURER WAS MANDATED BY STATUTE AND THAT MANY OF THE INVESTMENT PARAMETERS ARE DRIVEN BY STATUTE WHICH ARE CONFINED BY LAW. MS. WALRAVEN STATED THAT THE TREASURER HAS TO PRESENT AN INVESTMENT POLICY STATEMENT WHICH WAS PRESENTED AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS. THE INVESTMENT POLICY THE TREASURER WOULD DEEM TO BE NECESSARY WOULD HAVE TO GO THROUGH THAT PROCESS. THE TREASURE WOULD NEED TO PROJECT THE LIQUIDITY NEEDS WHEN LOOKING AT THE INFLOWS AND OUTFLOWS OF THE DELINQUENT TAX FUND AND THE OBLIGATIONS THAT THE TREASURERS OFFICE NEEDS TO MEET AT VARIOUS POINTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

THE BOARD ASKED CANDIDATE WALRAVEN TO EXPLAIN HER KNOWLEDGE OF COMPUTER SYSTEMS AND EXPERIENCE WITH TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES THAT SHE FELT WOULD ENHANCE THE OFFICE.

CANDIDATE WALRAVEN EXPRESSED THAT SHE WAS VERY COMPUTER SAVVY AND THAT SHE HAD BEEN USING A COMPUTER SINCE SHE WAS 5 YEARS OLD. MS. WALRAVEN SAID THAT SHE DID NOT USE MUNIS BUT THAT IT WOULD NOT BE AN ISSUE TO LEARN NEW SOFTWARE. SHE FELT THAT THE CURRENT TREASURERS OFFICE WEB SITE COULD BE UPDATED WITH CURRENT, UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.

THE BOARD QUESTIONED MS. WALRAVEN, ON WHAT BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND/OR GROUPS SHE HAD SERVED ON IN THE PAST; AND SHE WAS ASKED TO DETAIL ANY SUPERVISORY ROLLS SHE HAD HELD.

CANDIDATE WALRAVEN ANNOUNCED THAT SHE WAS CURRENTLY THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE UNITED WAY OF BAY COUNTY. SHE CONTINUED THAT SHE SERVES ON THE GRANTS COMMITTEE WITH THE BAY AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, WHICH DEALS WITH THE ISSUES AND INITIATIVE IN THE COMMUNITY. MS. WALRAVEN ALSO SERVED ON THE RETIREMENT BOARDS FOR BAY COUNTY.

THE BOARD STATED IN ENTERING A COMMITMENT TO OFFER THIS POSITION TO A CANDIDATE, WOULD SHE CONFIRM HER INTENT TO RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE IN THE 2020 ELECTION; AS THIS APPOINTMENT WAS ONLY TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020.

MS. WALRAVEN STATED THAT SHE ABSOLUTELY WOULD BE RUNNING FOR THE POSITION OF BAY COUNTY TREASURER, IF APPOINTED, IN 2020.

MEETING WAS ADJOURN AT 2:37 PM.

  
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JAN MINER  
PROBATE COURT JUDGE

  
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NANCY BORUSHKO  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

  
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CYNTHIA A. LUCZAK  
BAY COUNTY CLERK