

Sharon K. Williams, District 1
Junior Watkins, District 2
Barry Robinson, District 3
Chairperson-Andrew A. Rand, District 4
Rachael Parker, District 5
Eden S. Blair, District 6
James C. Dillon, District 7
Phillip Salzer, District 8
Kathrin Pastucha, District 9



Andrew A. Rand - Chairperson

Robert Reneau, District 10
District 11
Rachel Reliford, District 12
Vice-Chairperson-James T. Fennell, District 13
Brian Elsasser, District 14
Steven Rieker, District 15
Matthew Windish, District 16
Jennifer Groves Allison, District 17
Paul Rosenbohm, District 18

**SPECIAL PEORIA COUNTY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, August 6, 2019
4:30 PM**

County Courthouse • 324 Main Street • County Board Room 403 • Peoria, Illinois 61602
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**CALL TO ORDER
MOMENT OF SILENCE
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL BY THE COUNTY CLERK**

Attendance was taken with the Roll Call-Pro voting system, and the following members of the Board were present: Members Allison, Blair, Dillon, Elsasser, Fennell, Parker, Pastucha, Rand, Reneau, Robinson, Rosenbohm, Salzer, Watkins, Williams, and Windish, with Members Reliford and Rieker absent.

I. CITIZENS' REMARKS

Sherry Cannon, representing the NAACP, addressed the Board regarding the open positions and appointments. She expressed that the cost and rates of incarceration have increased over time. She noted that those in Peoria County courtrooms are 2.4 times more likely to be African American; while the demographics are 72% white and 19% African American. She detailed that 68.5% of those sent to prison from the County are black, but that they are not more criminally inclined. She expressed that the community is overpoliced and underserved. She explained that the issue is directly related to the State's Attorney's Office, and it has hurt families by putting more children into foster care. She reported that the Peoria County State's Attorney has not worked with African American citizens to get records expunged or with help for those that cannot pay. She remarked that the black community will not accept another State's Attorney that will criminalize it. She conveyed that there are long-tenured employees in the office that are responsible for the issues, she does not expect any change with the appointment of Judge Hoos, and the black community is disappointed for not being heard by the Board.

Chris Wade addressed the Board regarding the State's Attorney appointment. He noted that as a person of color, he has a concern with the appointment of Judge Hoos. He identified that he is disturbed by the plight of the African American community, the position of the State's Attorney is powerful, and he is dismayed that no person of color was included in the appointment process. He expressed that the community will be vigilant about the work of the State's Attorney, and he hopes Judge Hoos will do her best. He suggested that Judge Hoos look at issues facing the African American, immigrant, and LGBT communities.

Valerie Timmes, representing the NAACP, addressed the Board regarding the State's Attorney appointment. She detailed that she had hoped for some transparency from the Board to get public comment when the announcement of the special meeting was made, but that did not happen. She



expressed that the Board did not address the problem with diversity and that the appointment is not in the best interest of the community. She suggested that the County add a diversity officer to facilitate closure of the diversity gap in county employment. She highlighted that the State's Attorney appointment is powerful and has a huge impact on the African American community. She expressed that she hoped that there will be a plan to address the atrocities and that Judge Hoos will seek out the community's input.

II. ZONING ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTIONS

1. County Board Chairman Appointments: Peoria County State's Attorney

Member Robinson moved to approve the appointment of Judge Jodi Hoos and Member Williams seconded. Member Robinson explained that Chairman Rand is vigilant and diligent, and he will vote to support the appointment as there will be an election in 15 months.

Member Fennell summarized that he was in the interview process and he was impressed with Judge Hoos' responses. He believed that her eyes are open to what has been vocalized in the Citizens' Remarks. Member Williams clarified that the deadline was extended for all positions to give proper notice, described the interview process, and thanked Jan Kleffman in the Administrative office for her help.

Member Allison explained that Judge Hoos is fair, open-minded, eager to make a difference in the community and that she is excited because Judge Hoos will be the first woman in the role. Member Reneau discussed that through his employment he has seen the effect a poor state's attorney can have, and he is confident in Judge Hoos' ability. Member Pastucha remarked that Judge Hoos has her full support and thanked Chairman Rand for making the process a group effort. Member Robinson thanked the Brady family. Member Rosenbohm mentioned that the interview committee had great candidates who answered tough questions, it was a difficult decision, and everyone was looking out for what is best for Peoria County. Member Fennell commented that the process of appointments has been more bipartisan under the leadership of Chairman Rand. Member Dillon informed that more members were given a chance for input than in other appointments, the candidates for all the positions were high quality, and that Judge Hoos will take into consideration what has been said during Citizens' Remarks. He noted that Jerry Brady's shoes are hard to fill, but she will do a good job. Member Salzer observed that the candidates were excellent, that great black leaders are serving as judges, and that Judge Hoos will work with them and the community. Member Elsasser thanked the citizens for their comments. Member Watkins conveyed that he liked both candidates.

Chairman Rand highlighted that he will speak directly to those that have questions about the process, he noted the conversations he had with Pastor Hightower, he thanked the Brady family, and he stressed that his vote does not have any more weight than any of the other members. He reported the thoughts of Judge Kevin Lyons on Judge Hoos, which he believed to be understatement and her appointment is an honor.

The appointment was approved by a unanimous roll call vote of 15 ayes.



III. MISCELLANEOUS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Member Pastucha highlighted that the remarks made by the NAACP are not falling on deaf ears and she appreciates the comments.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the Chairman announced the meeting was adjourned.