

**MINUTES  
DECATUR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2013**

PRESENT: CHAIRMAN RUSSELL SMITH, VICE CHAIRMAN FRANK LOEFFLER, COMMISSIONERS DR. BUTCH MOSELY, OLIVER SELLERS, AND DENNIS BRINSON, COUNTY ATTORNEY BROWN MOSELEY, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR GARY BREEDLOVE, COUNTY CLERK BEVERLY KING AND NEWS EDITOR JUSTIN SCHUVER.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. After the call to order, Commissioner Brinson gave the invocation and all those assembled pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**District 1 Commissioner.** Chairman Smith stated the purpose of this special called meeting was to select a commissioner to represent District 1 on the Board of Commissioners to finish out the term for Earl Perry. Chairman Smith stated there were six candidates that for consideration. Chairman Smith stated the Board will give all six candidates the opportunity to speak to the Board before the Board makes their decision.

Chairman Smith recognized Jack Dodd. Mr. Dodd stated he would consider it an opportunity to be the advocate for this County which he sincerely believes has enormous assets and a bright future. Mr. Dodd said the Board can count on him to be a part of the team to emphasize and support effective programs and policies that will lead to an economic-sustainable future.

Chairman Smith recognized Debbie Elkins. Ms. Elkins stated she was a life-long resident of Decatur County and was a graduate of Bainbridge College with an associate of arts degree – secondary education and psychology. Ms. Elkins stated she had commitment to youth and the community through teaching Vacation Bible School, previous instructor for the Bainbridge College continuing education and previous board member for the local habitat for humanity.

Chairman Smith recognized Charles Fitzgerald. Mr. Fitzgerald stated he has resided at 105 Ashley Street since 1984. Mr. Fitzgerald said he served one enlistment in the U.S. Army and one tour overseas ETS for the rank of Spec 4. Mr. Fitzgerald stated he worked for Mosher Steel for eight years and then for the Decatur County Board of Education for twenty years becoming their shop supervisor. Mr. Fitzgerald stated he is presently retired and his goal if he is selected as the County Commissioner for District 1 is to represent the people to the best of his ability and work with the existing commissioners in keeping Decatur County moving forward to make it a better place to live.

Chairman Smith recognized Jan Godwin. Ms. Godwin said she was a 7<sup>th</sup> generation of Decatur County and a lifelong resident. Ms. Godwin stated she graduated cum laude from Florida State University in 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in communication with public relations emphasis while working full-time at Memorial Hospital and Manor. Ms. Godwin received A.A. and A.S. Degrees with honors from Bainbridge College in English and Secretarial Science. Ms. Godwin is an advocate of quality educational opportunities and jobs for all Decatur County residents. Ms. Godwin stated she has been employed for over 16 years at Memorial Hospital and Manor as Director of Public Relations and Volunteer Services and has worked at Bainbridge College for 3 year as a part-time instructor in Health Careers and Professional Services Division. Ms. Godwin said in her past experiences, she has learned that public service is not easy, but it must always be conducted fairly, openly, and wisely.

Chairman Smith recognized David Holt. Mr. Holt stated he ran as a democratic candidate for this position during the last election but was unsuccessful by a very small percentage of votes. Mr. Holt stated he was the only person from District 1 that put forth the effort to seek this position other than the incumbent and his votes indicate there was a considerable amount of

support, despite the outcome. Mr. Holt stated due to issues with his work and his family he would like to withdraw his name from consideration.

Chairman Smith recognized Ablert Scott. Mr. Scott stated he was a registered voter, homeowner, and treasurer of his Church. Mr. Scott said he was seeking to obtain a challenging position with a progressive organization in which his knowledge and skills could be utilized and expanded.

Chairman Smith thanked each candidate for their time.

Vice Chairman Loeffler made a motion to appoint Jan Godwin as Commissioner for District 1. Commissioner Sellers seconded the motion.

Commissioner Mosely stated every candidate is very qualified and said he appreciated everyone for their time.

A vote was taken and passed with a 4 to 1 vote. Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Loeffler, Commissioner Sellers and Commissioner Mosely voted in favor. Commissioner Brinson opposed.

Col. Breedlove stated Ms. Godwin would be sworn in at 8:45 Tuesday morning, January 8, 2012 before the scheduled Commissioner's Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting, on motion by Commissioner Mosely, was duly adjourned. Vice Chairman Loeffler seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Approved:   
Chairman

Attest:   
County Clerk