

Approved February 15th, 2018

The Special Meeting of the Douglas County Board of County Commissioners was held on January 9, 2018 in the meeting room of the County Administration Building, 1616 8th Street, Minden, NV, beginning at 6:00 PM.

Call to Order

Commissioners Present:

Steve Thaler, Chairman
Barry Penzel, Vice Chairman
Nancy McDermid, Board Member
Larry Walsh, Board Member
Dave Nelson, Board Member

Commissioners Absent:

Staff Present:

Larry Werner, County Manager
Zach Wadle, Deputy District Attorney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Commissioner Nelson

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

Chairman Thaler addressed the applicants and explained how the interview process would work.

Bobbi Thompson, Minden-Tahoe Airport, stated that there was a late applicant for the Airport Advisory Committee, Laurie Ricardi. Ms. Thompson advised that Ms. Ricardi was sick and was not able not to attend, but does want to continue her service on the committee. Ms. Thompson added that she is a commercial fighter pilot and owns the only commercial soaring operation in the County; Soaring NV.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION to approve agenda; Carried

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Nancy McDermid, Board Member
SECONDER:	Larry Walsh, Board Member
AYES:	Thaler, Penzel, McDermid, Walsh, Nelson

**DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING OF JANUARY 9TH, 2018
ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA**

1. For possible action. Discussion on appointments to the Airport Advisory Committee. (Larry Werner)

Commissioner McDermid asked if anyone could explain the seven positions in the Airport Advisory Committee (AAC) and what vacancies are available.

Bobbi Thompson, Minden-Tahoe Airport Manager, listed the seven positions: Business Community, Community at Large, Commercial Community, Soaring, Powered Aircraft, and Tenant. She added that there are four positions open and they serve two to three-year terms. Ms. Thompson stated that the committee has gone down to four meetings per year and the last meeting was eight minutes. She added that there aren't very many people coming to the meetings but it's due to lack of issues, not interest.

Chairman Thaler asked Ms. Thompson how often the ACC meets.

Ms. Thompson said by ordinance they meet four times a year.

Chairman Thaler asked how far ahead do they look, in terms of planning for the future.

Ms. Thompson said items are planned about a year ahead, due to active construction at the airport.

Vice Chairman Penzel asked about an additional late applicant, Matt Carter.

Ms. Thompson said Mr. Carter applied for the business community vacancy a week ago and confirmed there are four applicants for four vacancies.

Chairman Thaler stated that he would choose to have the department head talk about the Board because it is a good lead-in. He added that if the department head has concerns they could express them to the Board. Chairman Thaler asked how often the public asks to add things to the ACC agenda.

Ms. Thompson said the public can contact an AAC member through staff but she has never seen that happen.

Chairman Thaler explained the interview process to **Alexandra Kingzett** and offered her a few minutes to introduce herself.

Alexandra Kingzett stated that she represents the tenants and she has been a resident of Carson Valley for 25 years, but began flying on her 50th birthday. She added that the Minden-Tahoe airport is a great asset to the community and she gives Ms. Thompson kudos because she has done the heavy lifting for the upcoming airshow events. Ms. Kingzett added that she looks forward to serving Douglas County for another term.

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Commissioner Walsh said he has no questions and that he appreciated Ms. Kingzett's service.

Commissioner McDermid also thanked Ms. Kingzett for her service.

Vice Chairman Penzel asked how tenants contact Ms. Kingzett if there was an issue.

Ms. Kingzett said they would go through Ms. Thompson and she would resolve the issue.

Vice Chairman Penzel asked if there has ever been a problem.

Ms. Kingzett said the main issue is when commercial deliveries attempt to gain access.

Chairman Thaler asked if it was Ms. Kingzett's first term and what challenges the ACC has faced and expects to face moving forward.

Ms. Kingzett said she just finished her first term and moving forward they have to keep up with technology and promote the facility. She added that in Florida Commissioners wanted to tear down an airport but it was saved and now it's the jewel of the community.

Chairman Thaler asked where Ms. Kingzett sees the airport in ten years.

Ms. Kingzett stated she hopes it continues to flourish but she has an issue with the General Aviation Community diminishing, so she would like to see more young pilots.

Vice Chairman Penzel asked if the Federal Aviation Association (FAA) rebuilt the Florida Airport.

Ms. Kingzett said that there was a referendum on the ballot to save the airport and the public voted to keep it. She added that once it was saved the FAA stepped in to make the improvements.

Vice Chairman Penzel asked if Ms. Kingzett saw the airport moving to a towered airport.

Ms. Kingzett said she would like to see that from a safety standpoint.

Commissioner Walsh asked what kind of activities they could do for the public to market the airport.

Ms. Kingzett said that the air show and military displays are great for that. She mentioned that the blue angels will be coming next year and that should stimulate interest in flying. Ms. Kingzett concluded by saying she looks forward to serving her next term.

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End of Ms. Kingzett' s interview.

No other applications were present to be interviewed.

Chairman Thaler noted that the Board set a precedent that attendance was not required because they previously appointed a person did not show up. He called for a short break to see if any other candidates showed up.

Chairman Thaler called for a break at 6:26 PM

Meeting reconvened at 6:37 PM

Public Comment - None

MOTION to appoint Alexandra Kingzett representing Tenants, Matt Carter representing Business Community, Bill Driscoll representing Community at Large and Laurie Ricardi representing Soaring to serve on the Airport Advisory Committee for the term of office from January 2018 through December 2019; Carried.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Nancy McDermid, Board Member
SECONDER:	Dave Nelson, Board Member
AYES:	Thaler, Penzel, McDermid, Walsh, Nelson

2. For possible action. Discussion on appointments to the Parks and Recreation Commission. (Larry Werner)

Scott Morgan, Community Services Director, stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) consists of seven members that meet monthly and meeting locations alternate between Lake Tahoe and Valley. Mr. Morgan stated that they will have special meetings and PRC provides a recommendation to the Board and staff. He added that they vet a lot of issues before they go to the board.

Chairman Thaler stated there are four applications but only three slots. He added that two members must come from the valley and one from the lake. Chairman Thaler added that he is friends with Gary Dove but it does not affect his decision.

Commissioner McDermid knows Mr. Dove as well but it will not affect her decision making.

Vice Chairman Penzel added his friendship with Mr. Dove will not influence his decision.

Commissioner Walsh said that his relationship with Mr. Dove does not influence his decision.

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Commissioner Nelson stated that he's known Gary for years and that does not affect his decision.

Chairman Thaler explained the interview process to **Gary Dove** and offered him the opportunity to introduce himself.

Gary Dove said he moved here in July of 2005 and he has served on the PRC for the last four years. He added that he served as the Chairman last year. Mr. Dove stated he has never missed a meeting and he always comes prepared. He has served for the past three years as the commission liaison as a director of the Douglas County Community Services Foundation. Mr. Dove believes Douglas County is one community and opposes the idea of The Valley being separate from the Lake. Mr. Dove noted that the County has issues and the Committee needs to resolve those issues and make hard decisions. Mr. Dove believes he can handle making these decisions because when he commits, he gives his full attention. Mr. Dove concluded by saying he would like to be reappointed to the PRC.

Commissioner Walsh had no questions.

Commissioner Nelson had no questions.

Vice Chairman Penzel stated that he appreciates the hard work and tenacity Mr. Dove brings to the PRC.

Commissioner McDermid asked what hard decisions Mr. Dove has had to make.

Mr. Dove offered one example about the residents of South Hampton having an issue with a gate going into their community. Mr. Dove added that the PRC has to make sure staff doesn't waste time on these issues and resolves them. He added that he had to make the motion to remove the gate but it didn't pass but someone has to make the tough choices. Mr. Dove mentioned that he's grateful for the decisions that the board has made like Aspen Park. Mr. Dove stated that Aspen Park was deteriorating and staff couldn't improve it; it was brought to the board and a solution was found.

Commissioner McDermid asked how the Douglas Community Services Foundation has helped the PRC.

Mr. Dove declared that the foundation has done a lot for the community and the services are a funding mechanism to continue to provide for the community. Mr. Dove shared that the Community Center needs a flagpole and hopefully this year they will be able to help make that happen.

Chairman Thaler indicated that he had two questions; where does Mr. Dove see the PRC going in the future and how they raise funds for projects that are not in the budget.

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Mr. Dove replied by saying the PRC has to be adaptable, each year the County has new needs and those have to be prioritized by what is in the best interest of the County. He added that the foundation needed a generator and they received donations after running a marketing campaign for it. Mr. Dove mentioned that the flagpole will be handled the same way. He acknowledged that the list is dwindling at this point but there are still some cosmetic things on the list.

Chairman Thaler asked if the foundation had its own Capital Improvement Plan.

Mr. Dove said that the foundation, like many other committees, has the money right now and is looking forward to spending it on projects like a rock wall at the Community Center.

Chairman Thaler inquired what Mr. Dove thought his biggest accomplishment as Chairman was.

Mr. Dove remarked the Commission as a whole had a number of accomplishments; he reiterated that Aspen Park was a major success for the County. He also mentioned the minor improvements at the airport.

Chairman Thaler asked if there are any obstacles the PRC needs to address the Board.

Mr. Dove replied that there was nothing he needed to address and that he likes being on the commission, besides traveling in the winter months.

Vice Chairman Penzel asked the motocross track was on the radar for the PRC.

Mr. Dove mentioned that it is not but he knows there has been a lot of desire expressed by the public about it.

Vice Chairman Penzel added that he would encourage the PRC to do some basic planning as to what area may be acceptable.

Mr. Dove said he will defer to the staff in regards to an acceptable area and concluded that he is thankful for the opportunity and he has Douglas County's best interest in mind and he will do a good job.

End of Gary Dove's interview.

Chairman Thaler explained the interview process to **Michael Plansky** and offered him time to introduce himself.

Michael Plansky declared that he has been a resident of Douglas County for 15 years and he has a master's degree in landscape architecture. He added that he was a Tahoe Sierra Americore volunteer, since then he's been involved with community service projects and one example is the beach volleyball and disc golf festival he promoted from 2002-2005. Mr. Plansky said there was a huge diversity of people invited to try sports and it was good for the youth. Mr. Plansky said he

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mentioned that project because it sums up what he's about and his interests. He wants to get more people involved in a game that engages people. He added that personally he is on track to get his license in landscape architecture and he is an avid cyclist who supports trail connectivity. Mr. Plansky concluded by saying in general that he is interested in anything to do with public space and landscape architecture.

Commissioner Nelson stated that they both received their master's degrees from the same place and that he liked what Mr. Plansky has shared so far. He believes Mr. Plansky would be good for this position.

Vice Chairman Penzel asked if Mr. Plansky could give him an understanding as to what his background in managing projects is.

Mr. Plansky replied that he played a supporting role at the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and became very aware of the process to complete projects. He added that he was on the Lake Tahoe Advisory Committee as a volunteer for Southern Nevada Public Recreation Acts fund and more recently has started Greywater, a landscape company in California. Mr. Plansky said that in California, it's legal to use laundry and rainwater for landscaping, so he works with clients to develop greywater projects. He mentioned that the current disc golf development he is doing involves a lot of planning and management as well.

Vice Chairman Penzel asked if there are budgets associated with the disc golf projects.

Mr. Plansky stated that there is a matching grant in Carson City and they raised money through a church and sponsors.

Vice Chairman Penzel asked if it will be done on time and on budget.

Mr. Plansky replied that it depends on the weather, but it is likely.

Vice Chairman Penzel inquired as to what is the biggest challenge for the PRC.

Mr. Plansky said that Douglas County has great assets. He added that in Lake Tahoe the forestry division is talking about sustainable recreation and recognizing that the gaming industry is on the downslope. Mr. Plansky proclaimed that various types of recreational activities will help generate money for the County. He believes that disc golf can make a good impact in positive sports and bring in tourism dollars.

Commissioner McDermid asked Mr. Plansky if there would be a conflict of interest since he owns a landscaping business and is looking to be licensed in California and Nevada.

Mr. Plansky said he sees no conflict because his California business is in the Bay area and neither he nor his partners are full time in the business. Mr. Plansky mentioned that he wants his licensures attached to a disc golf course business.

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Commissioner Walsh asked about the cost of a disc golf course, without land.

Mr. Plansky said the basic cost is about \$15,000.

Chairman Thaler asked if Mr. Plansky has served on a community board before.

Mr. Plansky responded by saying he's been in the South Shore Lyon's Club and the Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee. He added that he has started student clubs for landscape which made him set agendas and attend meetings.

Chairman Thaler asked what makes Mr. Plansky qualified for this position.

Mr. Plansky stated that he is a longtime resident with a good track record, and cares about the environment and the community. He mentioned that he would be honored to serve on the board and he has a passion for any recreational activity that is good for cultural enhancement he is on board with.

End of Mr. Plansky's interview.

Chairman Thaler explained the interview process to **Cherise Smith** and offered her the opportunity to introduce herself.

Cherise Smith said that she served on the committee for two terms and she didn't voluntarily leave, but she was not appointed in the last term. Ms. Smith declared that she wants to be on the committee and to continue her service. She added that she is a resident of Tahoe and has been here since 1946. Ms. Smith mentioned that her children are fourth generation residents and graduated from the University of Nevada Reno (UNR) and she spends every day in either park facilities or on a path outdoors because she loves the community. Ms. Smith emphasized that she is passionate about making this County a great place and wants to continue to help achieve that. Ms. Smith concluded by saying her past experience as a member of the commission would be a benefit to the PRC now.

Vice Chairman Penzel asked if she still lived in Zephyr Cove.

Ms. Smith confirmed that she did.

Vice Chairman Penzel asked what the PRC could improve on.

Ms. Smith stated that the PRC does a great job, but one thing she would like to see, is somehow to encourage the youth to be involved in decision making. She added that she is concerned about the younger generation's ability to protect Douglas County.

Vice Chairman Penzel noted that the sentiment of youth is a theme throughout all County originations and services.

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Ms. Smith shared that both her girls use the facilities with her when they come to visit.

Vice Chairman Penzel questioned where the PRC can improve, in terms of its funding stream.

Ms. Smith reiterated that participation is needed specifically by business, by getting business' involved in community projects, as opposed to asking for money. She said she understands it is difficult to get funding for the PRC, especially in tourism, but there are events they can put on to help with funding.

Vice Chairman Penzel stated that the Transient Occupancy Tax is huge for the PRC.

Ms. Smith agreed but added that the businesses need to know how it is advantageous for them.

McDermid explained that she just learned that she and Ms. Smith's mother have been friends for years and asked why Ms. Smith is reapplying for the PRC.

Ms. Smith answered that she personally is on the trails every day, so it's a big part of her life and she is passionate about it. Ms. Smith mentioned that it is important for Douglas County and she has the time to volunteer and the passion. She indicated that she travels often and uses the information from other areas to help Douglas County.

Commissioner Walsh asked if there is venue item that she believes Douglas County is missing

Ms. Smith stated she does not have an exact idea but it is very important that it be something to help get the youth involved in using the facilities and making decisions.

Commissioner Nelson asked what one skill Ms. Smith has that would benefit the PRC.

Ms. Smith indicated that her empathetic decision making would benefit the PRC. She reiterated that she can be empathetic to the residents of Douglas County and it's important that if the choice is being made the PRC needs to listen to the County residents.

Chairman Thaler asked how long Ms. Smith was on the board.

Ms. Smith replied with four years.

Chairman Thaler asked Ms. Smith to describe a time that Board made a great decision.

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Ms. Smith shared a story about a time when she believed the Board had their minds made up about an item, and then changed their minds after hearing public comment.

End of Ms. Smith's interview

Public comment - None

Vice Chairman Penzel commented that they were all really good candidates who are passionate about serving. He stated that he would choose Mr. Dove and Mr. Burnside in the valley and Mr. Plansky for the lake because of his architecture expertise is needed.

Commissioner McDermid said she received multiple correspondences on the appointments tonight from previous Board members. She added that people from Tahoe come back and are passionate about Tahoe. Commissioner McDermid was impressed with Mr. Plansky's knowledge but is concerned about his business. She believes he could serve well but she would pick Mr. Dove and Mr. Burnside and Ms. Smith because of her willingness to listen to the public when making decisions.

Commissioner Walsh stated that he believes both Mr. Plansky and Ms. Smith are passionate and well qualified, but he did have reservations about Mr. Plansky's business so he selected Mr. Burnside and Mr. Dove from the valley and Ms. Smith from Lake Tahoe.

Commissioner Nelson agreed with the Board on the difficulty of this decision but he chose Mr. Burnside and Mr. Dove from the valley and Mr. Plansky because of his architectural expertise.

Chairman Thaler stated that there is no wrong decision but he would choose Mr. Burnside and Mr. Dove from the valley and he would choose Ms. Smith.

MOTION to approve the appointment for the Carson Valley resident of Gary Dove and for the Carson Valley resident Craig Burnside and for the Tahoe Township resident Cherise Smith for a term of office from January 2018 through December 2019; Carried.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Nancy McDermid, Board Member
SECONDER:	Larry Walsh, Board Member
AYES:	Thaler, Penzel, McDermid, Walsh, Nelson

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3. For possible action. Discussion on appointments to the Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife. (Larry Werner)

Chairman Thaler explained the interview process to **Bob Cook** and offered him a few minutes to introduce himself.

Bob Cook shared that he has been a Douglas County resident for 46 years, and he moved here to be a bomb technician when he left the War in Vietnam. He added that he came back from the war and did not want to live in Los Angeles so he moved here and never looked back. He has been married for 45 years and has three sets of twin grandchildren. Mr. Cook added that he's a hunter and fisherman so he has always been interested in wildlife and he feels like he can bring something to the table. Mr. Cook said that hunters are conservationists and people think they only want to kill animals, but most hunters don't abuse the system and that's what hunter safety is about. Mr. Cook acknowledged that there was a time where he had political aspirations and he's over that and doesn't want to pursue a political career. Mr. Cook said he is affiliated with almost all of the local wildlife or conservation districts, from Nevada Big Horn to Ducks Unlimited.

Commissioner Nelson commented that Mr. Cook serves on other committees and he would like to see new people appointed to Boards.

Commissioner Walsh asked Mr. Cook how long he has served on the Wildlife Board.

Mr. Cook said that he has been on since 2004 and that he started with the Senior Advisory board after becoming ill. Mr. Cook added that he wants people from the lake to represent the Boards.

Commissioner Walsh asked Mr. Cook what recommendation, adopted by Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), he was most proud of.

Mr. Cook said that getting NDOW involved with saving the fish in Tahoe made him proud. He added that he was a member of the Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee and he immediately brought it to the Board and they held two talks that were standing room only and he mentioned that because of that work they are attempting to turn emerald bay into a fishery, to help maintain the fish population.

Commissioner McDermid said she agrees that the person appointed needs Tahoe basin knowledge and she said Mr. Cook has been a great person who has bridged the valley and lake together.

Vice Chairman Penzel told Mr. Cook he was a great asset to the County, but the taped remarks he made about certain members of this Board is an unfortunate situation, but assuming that was a blip on the radar, and listening to Commissioner McDermid and Mr. Cook's explanation on the effect he has had on Lake Tahoe, he believes Mr. Cook should continue on the Board. Vice Chairman

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Penzel said he is not certain how the vote will go and appreciates his service in Vietnam but asked what Mr. Cook is most interested in tackling in his capacity as a board member if selected.

Mr. Cook stated that he started the Tri-County Mule Deer working group and they have been working to get deer herds back. He added that the majority of the population migrates from California now and there are a lot of different things they share that would be important to work with the board on standardizing County laws. Mr. Cook stated that he feels there is a discrepancy, between the County laws and the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Cook shared that a deer was shot on Genoa Lake with an arrow and Douglas County law is different from state law on that. Douglas County did not charge him, so it doesn't matter what they do because the Sheriff's Office will follow the state ordinance and not the Douglas County ordinance. Mr. Cook asked if the ordinance changing the boundaries for the shooting was adopted.

Vice Chairman Penzel stated that it is still being discussed but there has been a lot of feedback on it.

Chairman Thaler stated that there are two positions open, but asked how many board members are on the Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife and how many are Lake Members versus Valley.

Mr. Cook stated that there are five board members, four from the valley and one from the lake.

Chairman Thaler asked how important it was to have a Lake Tahoe representative.

Mr. Cook said that it's extremely important because if people who aren't from the Lake control the Board it could lead to misinformed decisions on what to do with Lake Tahoe.

Mr. Cook mentioned the bear hunt and how they helped out and gave up part of their hunt only to be asked to stop all hunting and that is a critical issue to him.

Chairman Thaler stated that all veterans are the most valuable to this country and most valuable to all.

End of Mr. Cook's interview.

Chairman Thaler explained the interview process to **Robert Rittenhouse** and offered him a few moments to introduce himself.

Robert Rittenhouse said he is reapplying for the Board and believes his experience in his last term on the advisory board will help him moving forward. Mr. Rittenhouse would like to thank the Commissioners for his original placement on the board.

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Commissioner Walsh said he has no questions and that Mr. Rittenhouse's resume is very impressive.

Commissioner McDermid asked what an NDOW hunter education instructor does.

Mr. Rittenhouse mentioned that they hold classes and provide a learning criterion for the safety and survival of hunting while prioritizing safety.

Commissioner McDermid asked what Mr. Rittenhouse learned while being on the Board.

Mr. Rittenhouse stated that the board spent a lot of time with biologist and a lot of the rules that come out of the commission are emotional. He added that it is hard to talk about topics where people are passionate because no amount of science can sway certain people's beliefs.

Vice Chairman Penzel mentioned that he was glad Mr. Rittenhouse applied and asked what motivated him to reapply.

Mr. Rittenhouse said he wants to help with the challenges coming up with an increase in population and the effect that will have on wildlife. He believes the future is on the kids to educate themselves and making the youth aware of how they can affect the environment in the smallest way, such as shooting, trail riders and new development, is very important.

Vice Chairman Penzel asked what Mr. Rittenhouse does as an angler instructor.

Mr. Rittenhouse said they take special needs kids out to a pond to teach them how to fish; he also ties flies and teaches fly casting.

Commissioner Nelson asked what he would like to see the advisory board accomplish in the next term.

Mr. Rittenhouse responded by saying he would like to attempt to organize a Tri-County advisory group, while it won't be a formal meeting, it does give them a place to talk about issues troubling Nevada.

Chairman Thaler said he has no questions.

End of Mr. Rittenhouse's interview.

Public Comment - None

Commissioner McDermid stated she was sorry that the committee did not talk to Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) when they were trying to figure out the shore zone. Commissioner McDermid said that Piers destroy the fish habitat but that is the only place a child would go fish. She added that this Advisory Board is a vital component of the County.

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MOTION to approve the appointment of Bob Cook and Robert Rittenhouse to the Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife for a term of office from January 2018 through December 2020; Carried.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Nancy McDermid, Board Member
SECONDER:	Dave Nelson, Board Member
AYES:	Thaler, Penzel, McDermid, Walsh, Nelson

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT - None

Vice Chairman Penzel asked, in advance of the Board of Equalization appointments tomorrow, if there was a resolution on the questionnaire the County Manager sent out.

Larry Werner, County Manager, advised that stated that it could not be discussed at this meeting because it is on the agenda tomorrow.

Chairman Thaler suggested that, since the first applicant won't be present, the Board open the next day's meeting at six and take a brief break until the next applicant arrives.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Steve J. Thaler, Chairman
Douglas County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Kathy Lewis, Clerk-Treasurer