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MINUTES

April 2, 2008

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The special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was called to order this 2nd day of April, 2008, in meeting room 240 of the Cleveland County Office Building by Chairman George Skinner. Christine Brannon, Deputy Clerk, called roll and those present were:

George Skinner, Chairman
Rusty Sullivan, Vice-Chairman
Rod Cleveland, Member
Christine Brannon, Deputy Clerk

Others present were: David Batton, Saundra DeSelms, Denise Heavner, Sarita Scott, Debbie McKiddy, Denise Ellison, F. DeWayne Beggs, Eddie Thomason, John Murrell, Doug Blaine, David Mobley, Paul Bugher, Bob Stuart, John Prykryl, Dana Guthrie, Peggy Laizure, Barbara McSwain, Gan Matthews, James Tyree and Mark Drummond.

Chairman Skinner called for the discussion, consideration, and/or action on the employment, hiring, appointment, or promotion to the position of Cleveland County Sheriff to finish term due to the pending retirement of F. DeWayne Beggs on April 30, 2008.
Chairman Skinner announced he had a prepared statement he wanted to read. Chairman Skinner read the following: We have interviewed many qualified candidates and he wishes them all well if they choose to run for the position. It is extremely important right now that we have someone in the Office to concentrate on budgeting and the new Cleveland County Jail planning and construction. The decisions on these issues cannot wait until next January. It would not be fair to a candidate or to the public to expect the interim Sheriff to split his time between the day-to-day operations of the Sheriff's Office and campaigning full time. Mr. Skinner went on to say he believes the County Commissioners have no business being King makers. The citizens of Cleveland County deserve to choose their Sheriff for the next four (4) years. With this decision no one is given an unfair advantage in the race and they can be assured the person that is running the Sheriff's Office has no distractions during this crucial time. Therefore Mr. Don Holyfield has pledged to serve out the remainder of Sheriff Begg's term and not be a candidate for the Office in the fall. Mr. Skinner repeated Mr. Holyfield would not be a candidate in the fall. Mr. Skinner went on to say Mr. Holyfield agreed with him it is not possible to concentrate completely upon the many important issues of the department and at the same time be a candidate for the position. Mr. Skinner stated he nominates Mr. Don Holyfield to finish out DeWayne's term. Mr. Skinner then asked the other Board members if they had any comments they would like to make at this time.
Rod Cleveland stated he would like to make the comment that he appreciated DeWayne Begg's service to the County and would have appreciated it even more if he had not given his resignation. Mr. Cleveland stated he wished him well on his retirement and hopes to hear about many fishing stories from him.
Rusty Sullivan commented that they had eleven (11) candidates that applied for this and all of them were very well qualified. Each one (1) brought different attributes to the County. They were blessed to have the ones that had applied and we really have some qualified people in Cleveland County. This decision was a hard decision to make. Mr. Sullivan went on to say he concurred with George. In the next months, Cleveland County will be facing the largest building project the County has ever had with the Jail. The County is about to go into

the budgeting season, which is always a monster. Mr. Sullivan agreed it would be really hard to split your time to run a full campaign and put 100% of your efforts into the running of the Sheriff's Office. Rusty Sullivan then stated he seconded Mr. Skinner's nomination.
Chairman Skinner then asked to call the roll.
The vote was: George Skinner, yes; Rusty Sullivan, yes; Rod Cleveland, no.
Motion carried.

Rod Cleveland moved, that the meeting be adjourned. Rusty Sullivan seconded the motion.
The vote was: George Skinner, yes; Rusty Sullivan, yes; Rod Cleveland, yes.
Motion carried.

(Clerk's Note: Agenda was posted on 3-27-08 @ 10:57 a.m.)