

At a Special (Organizational) Meeting of the Board of Supervisors
Held in the General District Courtroom on
Thursday, January 16, 2020 – 6 pm

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

C. Eric Fly, Sr.
Marian D. Johnson
Debbie P. Jones
Wayne O. Jones
Susan M. Seward
Rufus E. Tyler, Sr.
Steve White, Tie Breaker

STAFF PRESENT

Vandy V. Jones, III, County Administrator
Millard D. Stith, Consultant
Mark Flynn, County Attorney
Shilton R. Butts, Assistant to the County Administrator/Deputy Clerk

Item 1. Call To order/Determine Quorum (6:00 p.m.)

The January 16, 2020 special meeting of the Sussex County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Seward.

Item 2. The Invocation

The invocation was offered by Supervisor Tyler.

Item 3. The Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Chairman Seward turned the meeting over to County Administrator Jones.

Item 4. Agenda Amendment

There were no agenda amendments.

Item 5. Approval of Agenda

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR TYLER, seconded by SUPERVISOR SEWARD and carried:
RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby approves the January 16, 2020 special (organizational) meeting agenda as presented. All Board members present voted aye.

Item 6. Election of Chairman for Calendar Year 2020

County Administrator Jones opened the floor for nominations for Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for Calendar Year 2020.

Supervisor Tyler nominated Supervisor Wayne Jones for Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for Calendar Year 2020.

Supervisor Debbie Jones nominated Supervisor Seward for Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for Calendar Year 2020.

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR TYLER, seconded SUPERVISOR JOHNSON and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby accepts the nomination of the said names of Supervisor W. Jones and Supervisor Seward for the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for Calendar Year 2020. All Board members present voted aye.

After discussion, Supervisor W. Jones stated that being that this is his first year on the Board, he would request his name to be withdrawn from nomination for the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Tyler withdrew Supervisor W. Jones name from nomination for Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

County Administrator Jones stated that with the withdrawal of Supervisor W. Jones from nomination for Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, the name put forward for nomination for Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for Calendar Year 2020 was Supervisor Seward.

By roll call, County Administrator Jones asked for the vote for Supervisor Seward for Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for Calendar Year 2020.

Supervisor Fly – aye

Supervisor Seward – aye

Supervisor Tyler – nay

Supervisor Johnson – nay

Supervisor D. Jones – aye

Supervisor W. Jones – aye

County Administrator Jones announced that with four (4) aye votes—Supervisors Fly, Seward, D. Jones, and W. Jones, Supervisor Seward is Chairman of the Sussex County Board of Supervisors for Calendar Year 2020.

County Administrator Jones turned the meeting over to Chairman Seward.

Item 7. Election for Vice Chairman for Calendar Year 2020

Chairman Seward opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for Calendar Year 2020.

Supervisor Tyler nominated Supervisor W. Jones for Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for Calendar Year 2020.

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR TYLER, seconded by SUPERVISOR FLY and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby accepts the nomination for Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors on the said name of Supervisor W. Jones. All Board members present voted aye.

By roll call, Chairman Seward asked for the vote for Supervisor W. Jones for Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for Calendar Year 2020.

Supervisor W. Jones – aye
Supervisor D. Jones – aye
Supervisor Johnson – aye

Supervisor Tyler – aye
Supervisor Seward – aye
Supervisor Fly – aye

With a unanimous vote of ayes, Supervisor W. Jones is the Vice Chairman of the Sussex County Board of Supervisors for Calendar Year 2020.

Item 8. Adoption of By Laws

Chairman Seward asked if everyone had viewed or had copies of the By Laws.

Supervisor Tyler recommended that at the request of citizens that the start time of the Board of Supervisors meetings be moved from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR TYLER, seconded by SUPERVISOR D. JONES and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby changes the start time of the Board of Supervisors meetings from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Voting aye: Supervisors Johnson, D. Jones, W. Jones, Tyler

Voting nay: Supervisor Fly, Seward

Chairman Seward inquired as to the time in Item 8. Citizens' Comments that was normally at 8:00 p.m. County Attorney Flynn stated that Citizens' Comments could just be listed on the agenda. The time would be deleted from the By Laws.

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR TYLER, seconded SUPERVISOR JOHNSON and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby delete the time in Item 8. Citizens' Comments from the By Laws.

Voting aye: Supervisors Fly, Johnson, D. Jones, W. Jones, Seward, Tyler

Voting nay: none

Mr. Steve White, Tie Breaker, noted the end time of the Board of Supervisors meeting. After discussion, County Attorney stated that there was no value in the end time. There was discussion of amending the start time in Section 2. Meetings, 2.1.E from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and delete the end time.

Supervisor Tyler noted to amend the start time from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in Section 5. Order of Business, 5.1.A.

There was discussion of the length of time of the Board meetings and being cognizant of the time.

ON MOTION OF D. JONES, seconded by SUPERVISOR TYLER and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby amends Section 2. Meetings, Section 2.1.E and Section 5. Order of Business 5.1.A to change the start time of the Board of Supervisors meetings from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the end time of Board of Supervisors meetings in Section 2. Meetings, 2.1.E be deleted from the By Laws.

Voting aye: Supervisors Fly, Johnson, D. Jones, W. Jones, Seward, Tyler

Voting nay: none

There was discussion of roll call votes and voice voting of aye or nay. County Attorney Flynn stated the adoption of ordinances, particularly land use ordinances, laws, Closed Sessions and resolutions that have permanent effects should probably require roll call vote. County Attorney Flynn stated motions with temporary actions and procedural in nature could probably be done by voice vote of ayes or nays. There were discussion that in voice voting, the ayes or nays would not be recorded.

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR TYLER, seconded by SUPERVISOR D. JONES and carried: RESOLVED that the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby adopts the By Laws with said amendments:

- change the start time of the Board of Supervisors meeting from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- delete time in Item 8. Citizens' Comments from the By Laws.
- amend Section 2. Meeting, 2.1.E and Section 5. Order of Business, 5.1 to change the start time of the Board meetings from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- delete the end time of Board of Supervisors meetings in Section 2. Meetings, 2.1.E from the By Laws.

Voting aye: Supervisors Fly, Johnson, D. Jones, W. Jones, Seward, Tyler

Voting nay: none

Item 9. Appointment of Personnel and Finance Committees

Chairman Seward discussed with Board members whether to have a two (2) member or a three (3) member Committees. County Attorney stated that there was one (1) practical point—with a two (2) member committee, either both attends or there is no meeting. With a three (3) member committee, if at least two (2) members attend, a meeting can be held.

Chairman Seward appointed Supervisors Fly, W. Jones, and Tyler to the Finance Committee with Supervisor Fly being the Chairman.

Chairman Seward appointed Supervisors Johnson, D. Jones, and W. Jones to the Personnel Committee with Supervisor D. Jones being the Chairman.

There was also discussion regarding the Finance Committee of whether there would be any prohibition of the Chairman of the Finance Committee reviewing invoices as well as the Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. One of the responsibilities of the Vice Chairman is to review invoices.

County Attorney Flynn stated that there was no prohibition. According the By Laws, the Board may assign fiscal matters to the Finance Committee for review for recommendation for Board action.

Chairman Seward stated that Supervisor Fly, as the Chairman of Finance Committee, will be reviewing invoices on a monthly basis as well as or along with the Vice Chairman.

Item 10. Citizens' Comments

Comments were heard from Kevin Bracy (Courthouse District) to welcome new Board members, moving the County forward, and doing the right thing.

Item 11. Adjournment

ON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR D. JONES, seconded by SUPERVISOR W. JONES and carried: RESOLVED that the January 16, 2020 Special (Organizational) Meeting of the Sussex County Board of Supervisors hereby adjourned at 6:26 p.m. All Board members present voted aye.