

**Jefferson Co. Special Commissioner Meeting
May 27, 2015**

Meeting called to order at 7:00. Those present are Chairman Raymond, Commissioner Farnsworth, Commissioner Hancock, Attorney Robin Dunn, Clerk Colleen Poole; Audrey Moon is clerk of the board.

Chairman Raymond says he is happy to meet with these folks to review qualifications for the County Sheriff. Does state they prefer to make a decision tonight.

States the ground rules: Allow each candidate 5 minutes or less to give an opening statement. Then the Commissioners will take the opportunity to ask questions. Suggests two questions per Commissioner. Then the candidates will have 1 minute for a closing statement. Candidates will wait in the hall until their turn. Ask public to refrain from speaking, applauding, etc. This is the Commissioners opportunity to learn more about the candidates at this time. Anything said in this meeting is public record. Would like to thank those for being here to be placed in this position. Commissioner Hancock wants to point out this is not a debate but they will be looking at their strengths and weaknesses.

Commissioners

- **Interview Sheriff Applicants**

Lavar Summers

Lavar addresses the Commissioners and the public. He has been a long time resident of Jefferson County. Has served the county for several years as a deputy. Was also the manager of the Mud Lake rodeo and has helped in the schools. Has been the coroner for several years since he retired from the deputy position. He believes he is well respected in the community. He has raised his family here. He believes in being involved in the county and the community. On his one page resume he feels he couldn't put all of his qualifications. It's a good county and he believes in it. Is glad to have raised his family here.

Commissioner Farnsworth – What do you feel you can offer Jefferson County?

His dedicated service. He has a great deal of experience, honesty, and integrity. Can cooperate with Commissioners in budgeting. He believes in and feels honored he has made it this far in the consideration.

Commissioner Hancock – What are you going to do to restore confidence and ensure citizens of the county that you are looking out for their best interest?

He is hoping to bring continuity to both sides of the county. Wants to be able to listen to citizens and help those who believe they may be the victims. Talks about his own injustice. Feels he is more understanding to victims and knows what good investigations are. Wants to be fair and equal with everyone.

Chairman Raymond- What is current post certification status, and is he currently qualified to serve this County?

He believes as a current citizen he is qualified he has received all 3 post certifications. The current certification is not current due to his retirement. Interim Sheriff would be a year and a half does not know what post requires for interim. Some are hired without being post certified.

Commissioner Farnsworth – Do you have any plans to run in 2016?

He does not have any plans to run in 2016. He believes there are people out there that will run. He feels he is not a young man now but does feel he can help as an interim Sheriff. At this point in time he would not run.

Commissioner Hancock- How do you perceive you will be accepted in the Sheriff's office and how can you work with them?

States that he has already worked with several of the deputies. Had been involved in testing and hiring deputies. He did also have to discipline on occasion, but has had several officers come back and commend him on how that was handled. Was considered to be fair. They still call him Captain when he does go to the Sheriff office he thinks it's a respectful thing.

Chairman Raymond –What community affairs or community functions do you participate in and do you think it is important?

Had a good friend that said” if you live in a community you need to return something to it not just take from it.” He has been involved in the Mud Lake fair he feels when he became manager he brought some continuity and feels it’s good to be involved in. Was a resident patrol man that was involved in crime prevention programs. Besides coroner responsibilities he does deal with food commodities distribution once a month. Clocks the matches for the high school wrestling. These are little things but thinks it’s good to be involved with the citizens. Has made many friends within the county.

Commissioner Hancock – If you were selected what is your plan or role in running Sheriff’s department?

Has some real ideas on how to run office differently. He is not a micro manager does want to know what is going on. Does believe there are well qualified personnel in the Sheriff’s office. Thinks that would be a major change.

Chairman Raymond – As a Sheriff you would be responsible for one of the largest budgets in the county?

Tell us how you feel about that?

Understands the budget process from doing the coroner budget. Does have some apprehension about the budget. Does know it can be done. Knows he could work within the budget. It is one of his apprehensions but does not need to know everything. Is hoping that personnel would be able to help and scrutinize the budget with him to relieve some apprehension.

Wants to state he did not come campaigning for this position. He is willing to do his public duty and step up to the plate to make this work during the interim. Little worried about what would happen to the coroner’s office. Has had some difficulties with cases. Been quite frugal with the coroner budget. Is willing to serve the county but he personally hired the other candidates and commends their qualifications and training.

Steve Anderson

Would like to thank the Commissioners and community for the opportunity to be here. Feels that he is here to help heal the community and he feels he has the knowledge and skills to do this. Does not feel a bridge can be built until things are healed within the community. Wants to make a difference. Thinks we need to have a mentality of us, we, and ours. Wants to be open in the community. Do we want to have a Sheriff we can grow with, and who will keep our community safe with the best practices? He would appreciate the opportunity to be able to be the Sheriff and lead the Jefferson County Sheriff’s office ahead into the future.

Commissioner Farnsworth- What do you feel you can offer Jefferson County?

Open lines of communication, experience, leadership. Believes the community needs open lines of communication to bridge the gap that has been formed in the community.

Commissioner Hancock- What are you going to do to restore confidence and ensure citizens of the county that you are looking out for their best interest?

Wants to be out in the community and make sure their needs are being met. Wants to provide a community advisory board for any concerns and involve them in with ideas to move forward.

Chairman Raymond – What is current post certification status, and is he currently qualified to serve this County?

Yes he is currently post certified.

Commissioner Farnsworth- Do you have any plans to run in 2016?

I do. Believe if he is appointed tonight he will be able to show what his vision is to the community and then run for office.

Commissioner Hancock- How do you perceive you will be accepted in the Sheriff’s office and how can you work with them?

Believes the deputies respect him and his leadership. Has open communication with the deputies as well. They have trusted his leadership in previous cases.

Chairman Raymond- As a Sheriff you would be responsible for one of the largest budgets in the county? Tell us how you feel about that?

Looking at the budget he has seen some things where money could be moved into training and into community policing. Has to have the budget to operate. Wants to make sure things are taken care of and not replaced as often. Maintaining vehicles is important. Would see some tweaking and would take suggestions from the staff on where the money would be better spent.

Commissioner Hancock– If you were selected what is your plan or role in running Sheriff's department?

Long term would like to see Sheriff's office become part of the whole community. Would like to see some ideas he has spoken of to take off, to listen to the voices of the community. Would like to see employees have a happy and safe work place.

Chairman Raymond- What community affairs or community functions do you participate in and do you think it is important?

Yes he does. He tries to get out to community activities. Was out at the fireworks event and thinks it helps the community to see them at these activities. He has also coached in the community.

Wants the opportunity to become our Sheriff and watch the progression of the new administration. Has seen a lot of excitement with the community and wants to make the bridge between officials. He would like to be involved in this.

Ryan Brown

Addresses gratitude to be involved in the public interview. Talks about a riot in May of 1998 in Moscow. Had 93 officers and he was one of those officers. Was one of the worst nights in his career. That was a difficult time. Many of us don't realize that we have a normalcy biased. Don't anticipate that things can happen close to home. Wants to express that from his time in law enforcement it is important. It is expected with the county growth that they will have many challenges forward. He discussed the gravity of the issues and he thinks the Sheriff's office has been through difficult times but thinks it is time to look toward to the future. He has great experiences with the other candidates. Big part of what makes a good leader is not only the experience but to know the pulse of the community. Important to know those conflicts do arise and that voices do need to be heard. Has learned as being Mayor going to some of these meeting some people really are mad and how do you work through those challenges. Being a Sheriff the job is a peacemaker.

Commissioner Farnsworth – What do you feel you can offer Jefferson County?

Has a history of public service has been elected 2 times and appointed once. It's important to understand local governments and budgets. Budget is big issue. Has been well rounded in that area and would like to be involved in more challenges. Feels that unity in the Sheriff's office is very important. Needs to move forward with leadership skills.

Commissioner Hancock – What are you going to do to restore confidence and ensure citizens of the county that you are looking out for their best interest?

The Sheriff is a visible person elected in the county and has to deal with both positive and negative things in the community. Needs the ability to listen to people and even though certain requirements are made by training he feels that is essential and feels he brings in the strengths

Chairman Raymond – What is current post certification status, and is he currently qualified to serve this County?

Yes he is currently qualified. His post certification has lapsed but under law it is not a requirement. He does currently go through firearms training. Is currently a drug court coordinator but is not armed.

Commissioner Farnsworth – Do you have any plans to run in 2016?

If appointed tonight he would run in 2016.

Commissioner Hancock- How do you perceive you will be accepted in the Sheriff's office and how can you work with them?

He has some great friendships with some deputies he does feel he works with some through his probation job. He feels that he doesn't have any of the office politics going on and has left the Sheriff's office on good terms. He feels he has respect as well as gives respect

Chairman Raymond – What community affairs or community functions do you participate in and do you think it is important?

Involved in lots of areas the most time consuming is the service and election for Mayor of Rigby. He left being Mayor to be the Director at Tri County for drug court. Has a good positive impact on the community.

Commissioner Hancock– If you were selected what is your plan or role in running Sheriff's department?

Most important is to get back to stability and realizes the major toll this has taken on the employees. There have been differences of opinions. Need to have a strong leader to come together and help one another. His heart goes out to them he feels that sitting down setting goals on where they want to improve things.

Chairman Raymond – As a Sheriff you would be responsible for one of the largest budgets in the county? Tell us how you feel about that?

First thing in a large budget they are very important need to look at goals and deficiencies. That comes from those who are working beside you. Essential part is making sure you understand what revenues are coming. Can have a wish list of what you would like to have. Need to have the essentials first and then try and make things better. Revenues and communication between Commissioners and clerks. Knowing what money is coming in and thinks the communication between departments is the best thing that can be done.

Whatever the future has in store. He wants everyone to know he is not here for himself he is here for this community. He does have a job and is not here to be something he is not. Would support who is chosen. He has complete support behind the recourses that we have. Quotes a memorial that says "Blessed it are the peacemakers." Wants to pledge he will be civil, honest in discussions and actions want to be a peacemaker wherever he goes. If he takes oath of office you live by that oath. Appreciates the opportunity. Does admire the Commissioners and everything they do.

- **Decision on Sheriff**

Chairman Raymond says now that hard part begins invites candidates back in the room while they deliberate. Commissioner Hancock thinks they have 3 very qualified individuals from the Republican committee. Thinks that is important. Wants to serve and respect. Chairman Raymond thanks Republican Committee. Commissioner Farnsworth thanks the Republican committee states he has filled his paper with qualifications won't be an easy choice. Commissioner Hancock states post academy training is not a qualification. Commissioner Farnsworth states all have a background in law enforcement all have an understanding. Chairman Raymond asks the Commissioners if they are prepared to vote. Both Commissioners express that they are ready. Appreciates those who have prepared themselves tonight.

Motion by Chairman Raymond to appoint Steve Anderson to be Interim Sheriff until official election and placement in January 2017. Second by Commissioner Farnsworth. Roll call taken. Commissioner Farnsworth – aye, Commissioner Hancock- Chairman Raymond – aye. Motion passed

Swear in Sheriff Steve Anderson and read his Oath of Office.

Motion by Commissioner Hancock to adjourn at 8:15. Second by Commissioner Farnsworth. All in favor- aye. Motion passed.

Chairman of the Board

Clerk of the Board

County Clerk