

North Dakota Ethics Commission Special Meeting

Minutes of August 3, 2023

MS Teams

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman David Anderson at 3:33 pm. The following members of the Ethics Commission were also present: Commissioners Ron Goodman, Ward Koeser, and Cynthia Lindquist, Legal Counsel Patricia Monson, Executive Director Rebecca Binstock, Office Manager Holly Gaugler, and General Counsel finalist, Logan Carpenter.
2. **Agenda and Instructions for Special Meeting:** Vice Chair Anderson reminded the Commission that discussion for the meeting is limited to the agenda items which include discussion of the finalist for the General Counsel position and discussion of General Counsel Salary Negotiation.
3. **Discussion of Finalist for General Counsel Position:** Executive Director Binstock introduced Logan Carpenter as the Finalist in the Selection of General Counsel for the Commission's Consideration: Mr. Carpenter is currently serving as a law clerk for the Honorable Clare Hochhalter, Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court for the District of North Dakota. Prior to his service with the federal court, Mr. Carpenter had the privilege of serving as judicial law clerk for the Honorable Gerald VandeWalle. Mr. Carpenter also gained educational, legal, and legislative experience as a legislative intern for the Office of the Governor, an extern with the United States Attorney's Office, and as the managing editor for the North Dakota Law Review.

Executive Director Binstock further added that during the interview process, Mr. Carpenter demonstrated a profound understanding of the role of the North Dakota Ethics Commission in state government, including its inception and enabling laws. Most importantly, Mr. Carpenter is sincere and enthusiastic to serve as General Counsel for the Ethics Commission.

Executive Director Binstock recommended to the Commission that a motion be made to offer the position to Logan Carpenter.

Motion: A Motion was made by Commissioner Goodman to offer the position of General Counsel to Logan Carpenter. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Koeser. Vice Chair Anderson called for a roll call vote. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

4. **General Counsel Salary Negotiation (Executive Session):** The authority for closing this portion of the meeting is N.D.C.C. §§ 44-04-19.1(9), the purpose of this Executive Session is to discuss the strategy for salary negotiations for the general counsel position.

Motion: A Motion was made by Commissioner Koeser to move the discussion to Executive Session. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Lindquist. Vice Chair Anderson called for a roll call vote. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Vice Chair Anderson reminded the Commission that discussion in executive session must be limited to the topic and any decision made in executive session or final action must be taken in the open meeting.

The Commission entered Executive Session at 3:45. Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioners Goodman and Koeser, Legal Counsel Patricia Monson, Executive Director Binstock, and Office Manager Holly Gaugler attended Executive Session. Commissioner Cynthia Lindquist was not able to attend the executive session due to technical problems. The Commission returned from Executive Session and reconvened the regular meeting at 4:19 p.m. The following action was taken in open session regarding salary negotiations with the finalist for the General Counsel position, Logan Carpenter:

Motion: A motion was made by Commissioner Koeser to authorize Executive Director Binstock to negotiate a starting salary with Mr. Carpenter as discussed in Executive Session. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Goodman, Vice Chair Anderson called for a roll call vote. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote. Commissioner Lindquist abstained from voting as she was not able to attend Executive Session.

5. **Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Approved on 8/23/2023 

Rebecca Binstock, Executive Director, North Dakota Ethics Commission