

WADENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' SPECIAL MEETING

MARCH 7, 2022

The Wadena County Board of Commissioners' Meeting was held on March 7, 2022 in the Wadena County Court House, 415 Jefferson St. S., Wadena, MN 56482. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chairperson Kangas and all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were: Commissioners Jon Kangas, Murlyn Kreklau, Sheldon Monson, Mike Weyer, Bill Stearns, County Coordinator Ryan Odden, County Attorney Kyra Ladd, Rosalie Miller, Ralph Miller, Curt Folkestad, Roger Folkestad, Ken Mudek, Brian Roth, *Wadena Pioneer Journal* reporter Rebecca Mitchell.

Amend/Approve the day's Agenda: Moved by Commissioner Monson, seconded by Commissioner Weyer to approve the day's agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment Period on Establishing Appointed Office of County Recorder:

Rosalie Miller addressed the board and stated that is our Right to Vote and she does not want that taken away. If elected the person must live in Wadena County and if appointed, they can live anywhere.

Ralph Miller agrees with what Rosalie said. He would like to point out that appointments can lead to friends and relatives being hired over others that would be qualified. Some of the past appointments have not worked out so well.

Curt Folkestad feels that Elected County Employees need to live in the County and that helps the area. He wants to retain our right to vote for as many things as possible.

Roger Folkestad agrees with what has already been stated and feels that the public should have the right to vote for as many offices as they are allowed to vote for.

Ken Mudek agrees that citizens should have the right to vote for this office. He is worried about family members working for the county.

Brian Roth believes that this should be brought to the general public for them to make the decision as to whether it should be elected or appointed.

Chairperson Kangas explained the Recorder's position can be changed to an appointed position by the State Statues. He explained that the discussion has been brought up as possible ways to save the county money. The board has been talking about having a land service office and the duties could be divided up if the office is appointed.