

These meeting notes should be for the committee meeting held on April 1, 2025 not April 3, 2025. There is a wrong date on the notes below. There was no Coroner meeting held on April 3, 2025. LG 4-14-25



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CORONER COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES FROM APRIL 3, 2025

Members of the Coroner Committee met on April 3, 2025 at the courthouse. The following Commissioners were in attendance:

Commissioner Ron Richards, Dist 2 via Zoom (from Europe!)
Commissioner Alex Fane, Dist 1
Commissioner Cathy Walde, Dist. 3
Commissioner Ron Cameron, District 2

Also in attendance was County Administrator Todd Mielke in person and a citizen identified as "Carrie" no last name provided on line.

The meeting convened at 1:04 pm.

Some discussion outside the committee's formal gathering (i.e. emails) made suggestions that appointing the coroner may be unavailable to us, which was counter to what had been previously presented by an attorney and the administrator. For that reason, Admin. Mielke was invited to help clear some confusion.

In his presentation, Admin Mielke did confirm that the appointment of a coroner is indeed an option per the discussions he has been involved in with the attorney. Admin Mielke also confirmed that "the county" is indeed prepared to create the new office in county government, however space is always a concern. Comm. Halde discussed physical space options with the Administrator.

Comm. Richards submitted some disagreement and reiterated his position that having the prosecutor continue as the ex officio coroner remains an option as the charter states.

Comm. Fane expressed his thoughts on which direction we should go. For me, I expressed my thoughts that the position of coroner should be an independent position

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due to the complexity that death investigations have become and the fact that any existing position such as the Judge or Prosecutor, is overwhelmed with their regular duties.

This, combined with the input of citizens thus far at town halls, made the committee decide to develop a draft petition to eliminate the last sentence of Article 4.20 of the Charter to remove the last sentence; " The Prosecuting Attorney will serve as ex-officio coroner without extra compensation." This would allow the County Commissioners and the Administrator to develop qualifications and requirements to appoint a competent individual that would be accountable in the position.

All Coroner Committee Commissioners were requested to draft their thoughts for a petition to present to the entire commission soon.

The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting scheduled for April 10 at 1pm at the courthouse.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Cameron