

WOODBURY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM(S) REQUEST FORM

Date: 3/16/2023 Weekly Agenda Date: 3/21/2023

ELECTED OFFICIAL / DEPARTMENT HEAD / CITIZEN: Loni Kuhlmann - Veteran Affairs

WORDING FOR AGENDA ITEM:

ACTION REQUIRED:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| Approve Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> | Approve Resolution <input type="checkbox"/> | Approve Motion <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Public Hearing <input type="checkbox"/> | Other: Informational <input type="checkbox"/> | Attachments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The attached Veterans have applied to become the new Commissioner for our office. Please choose from the applications & references, to fill the remaining term of the departed Commissioner.

BACKGROUND:

Our office is down a Commissioner, as they resigned a few months ago. Attached are the applicants & their references, for your consideration. The remaining term, for this appointment, is through June 2023, this if they want to remain they may be re-appointed.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

No change as this Commissioner is budgeted for.

IF THERE IS A CONTRACT INVOLVED IN THE AGENDA ITEM, HAS THE CONTRACT BEEN SUBMITTED AT LEAST ONE WEEK PRIOR AND ANSWERED WITH A REVIEW BY THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE?

Yes No

RECOMMENDATION:

The office would be happy with any of the attached applicants.

ACTION REQUIRED / PROPOSED MOTION:

Appointment of new Commissioner.

APPLICATION FORM FOR WOODBURY COUNTY BOARD/COMMISSION

Please Return To:

Woodbury County Board of Supervisors, Room 104, Woodbury County Courthouse,
620 Douglas St., Sioux City, Iowa 51101

Phone: (712) 279-6525 Fax: (712) 279-279-6577 Website: <http://woodburyiowa.com>

Application For: Veteran Affairs (Board/Commission)
 Date 3 FEB 23 E-mail Address fennelt50@gmail.com
 Name Thomas Fennell
 Address 2209 Pueblo Ct 51104
 Phone Number 712-253-9257 Fax Number _____
 Business Phone _____ Cell Phone 712-253-9257

This form assists the Board of Supervisors in evaluating the qualifications of applicants for appointment to a board or commission. State law requires political subdivisions to make a good faith effort to balance most appointive boards, commissions, committees, and councils according to gender by January 1, 2012, and each year thereafter.

Female Male

Place of employment and position (and/or activities such as hobbies, volunteer work, etc. that you feel may qualify you for this position):

Sioux City Community Schools Juvenile Court Liaison
Track and Cross country Coach
Running, Biking, Hiking and reading
Recently retired from 34 years Air National Guard

The following questions will assist the Board of Supervisors in its selection.

■ How much time will you be willing to devote in this position?

As much as my employment will allow.

■ Interest in Appointment: Describe in detail why you are interested in serving on a county board or commission. Include information about your background that supports your interest.

Having recently retired from service I still
have a passion to serve. My struggles and the
service from the VET Center, Vet Affairs and
VA provide me a unique perspective to assist
and advocate for my fellow veterans.

■ Contributions you feel you can make to the Board/Commission:

Passion, energy, perspective on the struggles
of our veterans gained from personal experience.
Speaking skills, networking skills and availability
are willing to devote the necessary time to help
impart veterans and grow the commission.

■ Direction/role you perceive of this Board/Commission:

To educate and communicate on behalf of our veterans and the services and resources available to assist and support. Impact as many VETS as possible in a positive capacity.

■ In lieu of/in addition to the above, do you have any comments to add that may assist the Board of Supervisors in its selection?

I am very grateful for the services and support that I am receiving as a veteran. My knowledge and experience give me a unique perspective to develop relationships pertaining to our veterans in our community.

■ Please provide two references who may be contacted on your qualifications for this position.

Name	Address	Phone number	Email address	Relationship
Gary Niles	1081 Benton Ave	51108	712-389-7278	gary.niles9784@gmail.com Juvenile Court Supervisor
Larry Christensen	10825 E24, Whiting, IA	51063	712-233-0501	amylarpc@gmail.com Air Nat Guard Supervisor

I certify that there is nothing that would prohibit me from serving on this board or commission.

Signature [Signature] Date 3 FEB 23

YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE RETAINED IN OUR FILES FOR ONE YEAR
THIS APPLICATION IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT AND AS SUCH CAN BE REPRODUCED AND
DISTRIBUTED FOR THE PUBLIC.



Third Judicial District
Juvenile Court Services
Gary Niles, Chief Juvenile Court Officer
822 Douglas Street
Trosper-Hoyt Bldg., Room 201
Sioux City, IA 51101-1024
712-279-6586 Fax: 712-279-6020

Counties

Buena Vista
712-749-2564

Cherokee
712-225-2669

Clay
712-262-5938

Crawford
712-263-5442

Dickinson
712-262-5938

Emmet
712-362-5729

Ida
712-749-2564

Kossuth
712-295-7018

Lyon
712-737-8633

Monona
712-263-5442

O'Brien
712-737-8633

Osceola
712-737-8633

Palo Alto
515-295-7018

Plymouth
712-546-1642

Sioux
712-737-8633

Woodbury
712-279-6586

Loni Kuhlmann, Executive Director
Woodbury County Commission of Veteran Affairs

Lori,

Please accept this letter as my formal endorsement of T. J. Fennell as a new commissioner on the Woodbury County Commission of Veteran Affairs. I have known T.J. for nearly 35 years and have always found him to be an outstanding person in every regard. T.J. has devoted a substantial part of his professional life serving this great nation with distinction, often times at a significant cost to himself and his family. T.J. has been responsible for countless numbers of enlistees into the Armed Services by truly representing what being in the service can do for you, including two of my sons and two of my grandsons.

T.J. Has been employed as a School Liaison Officer in the Sioux City Schools for over 30 years, a program he started that now has over 100 members in schools throughout Iowa. He has mentored hundreds of youths and I can tell you of many successful people who very kindly say that T.J. made a huge difference in their lives.

In closing, I can truly think of no better person for this position and I know with the greatest of certainty that T.J. will pour his heart and soul into the commission's efforts.

Please do not hesitate to call if any further endorsement is necessary. I am most excited to hear of T.J.'s desire to continue to serve the veterans of our community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary P. Niles
Chief Juvenile Court Officer
Third Judicial District

State of Iowa
Dated this 9th day of March, 2023

Lisa Robinson

From: Loni Kuhlmann
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 10:01 AM
To: Lisa Robinson
Subject: FW: Reference for Thomas Fennell

Loni Kuhlmann, Executive Director
Woodbury County Commission of Veteran Affairs
1211 Tri View Ave
Sioux City, IA 51103
Phone: (712) 279-6605 or 6606
Fax: (712) 224-4093
Email: lkuhlmann@woodburycountyiowa.gov

From: A C <amylarryc@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 7:04 PM
To: Loni Kuhlmann <lkuhlmann@woodburycountyiowa.gov>
Subject: Reference for Thomas Fennell

CAUTION: This email originated from **OUTSIDE** of the organization. Please verify the sender and use caution if the message contains any attachments, links, or requests for information as this person may NOT be who they claim. **If you are asked for your username and password, please call WCICC and DO NOT ENTER any data.**

Loni,

Thanks for allowing me to send you this reference for Thomas Fennell (TJ). I've worked with TJ for 30+ years in the Iowa National Guard. He has always worked extremely hard for the mission of the Iowa National Guard, Airmen, Soldiers, and their families. Working to improve servicemen's lives is only part of what TJ is capable of. He also works with troubled kids. He has improved the lives of many troubled kids who had very few options. He has given them new hope and helped redirect their lives to something they probably never dreamed of.

I believe TJ would be an excellent choice for the Commissioner position with your organization. You will not find anyone more motivated than TJ. He has much more to give and will work very hard for the veterans of Woodbury County.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Larry Christensen, Brig Gen(ret)

Cell:712-203-1715

[Email:amylarryc@gmail.com](mailto:amylarryc@gmail.com)

APPLICATION FORM FOR WOODBURY COUNTY BOARD/COMMISSION

Please Return To:

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620 Douglas St., Sioux City, Iowa 51101
Phone: (712) 279-6525 Fax: (712) 279-279-6577 Website: <http://woodburyiowa.com>

Application For: COMMISSION, VETERAN AFFAIRS (Board/Commission)
Date 1-19-2023 E-mail Address zane.chwirka@woodburycounty.iowa.gov
Name ZANE CHWIRKA
Address 1700 S. CORNELIA ST
Phone Number 712-898-2121 Fax Number _____
Business Phone (712) 279-6010 EXT. 2679 Cell Phone (712) 898-2121

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Female Male

Place of employment and position (and/or activities such as hobbies, volunteer work, etc. that you feel may qualify you for this position):

- WOODBURY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DEPUTY
- I'M AN ASSISTANT COACH AT SIOUXLAND CHRISTIAN W/FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL
- TRY TO STAY IN SHAPE RUN & LIFT

The following questions will assist the Board of Supervisors in its selection.

■ How much time will you be willing to devote in this position?

A COUPLE HOURS A MONTH

■ Interest in Appointment: Describe in detail why you are interested in serving on a county board or commission. Include information about your background that supports your interest.

I AM LOOKING TO GAIN INFO ON HOW I CAN ASSIST OTHER VETS AND MYSELF BETWEEN THE ARMY BURNED AND AIR BURNED I RETIRED AROUND A YEAR AGO W/ 21 YEARS OF SERVICE.

■ Contributions you feel you can make to the Board/Commission:

BEING EMPATHETIC AND JUST TRYING TO HELP OTHERS. I CAN RELATE TO ALOT OF OUR SERVICE MEMBERS

■ Direction/role you perceive of this Board/Commission:

TO BE AN ADVOCATE FOR OUR VETS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

■ In lieu of/in addition to the above, do you have any comments to add that may assist the Board of Supervisors in its selection?

SASHA DOWNS ASKED ME IF I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN A POSITION W/ THE VETERAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION. I DO NOT KNOW A LOT OF WHAT THIS JOB ENTAILS BUT AM WILLING TO LEARN AND HELP OUT VETS.

■ Please provide two references who may be contacted on your qualifications for this position.

Name	Address	Phone number	Email address	Relationship
WILLIE GARRETT	203 3RD ST. P.O. BOX 655	712-635-6448	wgarrett@woodburycountyiowa.gov	FRIEND/co-worker
TIM CHRISTENSEN	3221 ORLEANS AVE. S.C. IA	(712) 898-7442	tlmtimc76@gmail.com	FRIEND

I certify that there is nothing that would prohibit me from serving on this board or commission.

Signature [Signature] Date 1-19-2023

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Lisa Robinson

From: Loni Kuhlmann
Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2023 11:23 AM
To: Lisa Robinson
Subject: FW: Referral Letters

Loni Kuhlmann, Executive Director
Woodbury County Commission of Veteran Affairs
1211 Tri View Ave
Sioux City, IA 51103
Phone: (712) 279-6605 or 6606
Fax: (712) 224-4093
Email: lkuhlmann@woodburycountyiowa.gov

From: Tim Christensen <timmtc76@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2023 11:11 AM
To: Loni Kuhlmann <lkuhlmann@woodburycountyiowa.gov>
Subject: Re: Referral Letters

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Loni,

Zane is one of my closest friends and an amazing human being. I have personally witnessed this man help so many people not only at the guard but in the civilian world as well, myself included. He was there for me in some serious times of need and would reach out to me just to make sure I was ok. He is a highly motivated individual that has empathy by the truckloads. He is a very fluent speaker and wise beyond his years. His leadership qualities are some of the best I have ever seen in my 27 years of military experience and he was very inspiring to his troops and even to his officers over him. I even considered him a role model and he was very helpful in guiding me through some tough times in my life. I highly recommend Zane Chwirka for the position of commissioner and I have complete confidence he will do amazing things!!

V/r
LtCol Tim Christensen

On Thu, Mar 9, 2023 at 10:51 AM Loni Kuhlmann <lkuhlmann@woodburycountyiowa.gov> wrote:

I am still in need of your referral letters for our new commissioner applicants. Please respond by the end of the week with them. Thank you .