

CLINTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
Clarity/Factual Recall Review Hearing
July 6, 2023

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	The Clinton County Election Commission met Thursday, July 6, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. in the Clinton County Board of Commissioners Room, Courthouse, St. Johns, Michigan.
ROLL CALL	Roll was called by Clerk Sutherland. Present were Commission Members Hon. Lisa Sullivan, Judge of Probate; Steven E. Wiswasser, Treasurer; and Debra A. Sutherland, County Clerk.
PRESENT	Patti Schafer, Richard Jones, Jeff Oberg, Kathy Oberg, Jamie LaFavor, Ann Jones, Dennis Strahle, Troy Stroud, Stephanie Dush, Carolyn Simon and Theresa Nelson
PURPOSE OF CLARITY HEARING	Judge Sullivan introduced the Election Commission members and explained the purpose of the hearing to determine whether each reason for the recall stated in the petition is factual and of sufficient clarity to enable the officer, whose recall is sought, and the electors to identify the course of conduct that is the basis of the recall. Judge Sullivan pointed out that the Election Commission does not determine the truth of any allegations.
READING OF RECALL LANGUAGE – TREASURER KATHY OBERG	“In the spring of 2022, Richard Jones voted yes to have Eagle Township Supervisor Patti Schafer sign a non-disclosure agreement pertaining to the potential large-scale development of land in Eagle Township. This act limited the information available to Eagle Township Residents.”
STATEMENTS BY SPONSOR	Judge Sullivan called for comments by the sponsor of the recall. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Troy Stroud, stated he believes the petition is both clear and factual; spelling out what happened.
STATEMENT BY OFFICEHOLDER	Judge Sullivan called for comments by the proponent of the recall effort. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jamie LaFavor, 15762 Jones Road, Eagle Township, spoke on behalf of her grandfather, Richard Jones. Ms. LaFavor noted some items that could be clearer, such as the date of the meeting and the office held by Mr. Jones. She added that she believes the statement of “the act limited information” is speculation and that the language does not specify with whom the NDA was entered. Lastly, Ms. LaFavor mentioned that everyone on the board did vote yes.
PUBLIC COMMENTS	Judge Sullivan called for public comments. There were none.
DISCUSSION	Judge Sullivan opened the hearing up to discussion by the Election Commission members. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Treasurer Wiswasser questioned if the other officials’ positions were identified in previous petition language.• Judge Sullivan noted that the office is on the face of the recall petition. She added that we approved other petitions for reasons discussed and that Mr. Jones has the ability to defend himself; whether it’s true or not is not for us to decide. Judge Sullivan noted that we approved two others with the same language.• Clerk Sutherland concurred, noting that the only reason she did not vote to approve a previous petition language filed was due to the misspelling of Mr. Jones last name and that has been corrected.
DETERMINATION BY THE ELECTION COMMISSION	Clerk Sutherland moved, seconded by Treasurer Wiswasser to approve the language as printed. Judge Sullivan asked the members to vote on the approval of the petition. Clerk Sutherland voted yes; Treasurer Wiswasser voted yes; and Judge Sullivan voted yes. The language was approved, and a Determination of Election Commission was prepared. Treasurer Wiswasser expressed his hope for progress in coming together as a community.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Election Commission, Judge Sullivan declared the hearing adjourned at 8:09 a.m.

Debra A. Sutherland

Debra A. Sutherland, Clinton County Clerk