

Meeting Date
02/20/2018



AGENDA	
Section	New Business
Item No.	V.L.D.1

REVISED AGENDA REPORT
BREVARD COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT:	Appointment of Interim County Attorney
DEPT/OFFICE:	County Attorney's Office/County Manager's Office

Requested Action:

It is requested that Eden Bentley, Deputy County Attorney, be appointed Interim County Attorney upon the retirement of Scott Knox on March 30, 2018, and through the November 2018 election of County Commissioners for District 2 and District 4 and selection of a new County Attorney by the Board.

Summary Explanation & Background:

Scott Knox, current County Attorney, will be retiring on March 30, 2018. It is the recommendation of Mr. Knox that Eden Bentley, Deputy County Attorney, be appointed as Interim County Attorney upon his retirement and on March 30, 2018, and through the November 2018 election of County Commissioners for District 2 and District 4 and selection of a new County Attorney by the Board. A copy of Ms. Bentley's resume is attached

Contact: Scott Knox, County Attorney, at 321-633-2090, or scott.knox@brevardfl.gov.

Clerk to the Board Instructions:

Exhibits Attached: Resume of Eden Bentley, Deputy County Attorney

Contract /Agreement (If attached): Reviewed by County Attorney Yes No PR

County Manager
Frank Abbate

Interim Assistant County Manager
Jim Liesenfelt

Department Director / Extension
Scott Knox, County Attorney / 321-633-2090

Assistant County Manager
John Denninghoff

**EDEN BENTLEY
ATTORNEY AT LAW**

Experience

2005- present Deputy County Attorney, Brevard County, Florida.

1986- 2005 Assistant County Attorney, Brevard County, Florida.

- Legal advisor at County Commission hearings on planning and zoning issues for 19 years. Handled rezonings, development of regional impact development orders, comprehensive plan adoption and amendments, impact fees, findings of fact, administrative and circuit court appeals and developed the binding development plan process.
- Advisor to the Planning and Zoning Board, the Local Planning Agency and the Board of Adjustment, Property Appraisal Adjustment Board and Merritt Island Redevelopment Agency as needed.
- Real estate transactions exceeding 100 million in value for road projects, water and wastewater projects, parks projects and other acquisitions and sales as needed. Also handled closings for Beach and Riverfront Acquisition Program and the Environmentally Endangered Land Program, which were funded through a thirty million dollar bond issue and a fifty million dollar bond project, respectively.
- Complex business transactions, such as the transfer of a water and wastewater system, ongoing business accounts and a simultaneous seventeen million dollar bond issue.
- Real estate, zoning and condemnation cases have resulted in litigation in the circuit court, as well as appeals to the circuit court, the Fifth District Court of Appeals, the Florida Supreme Court, (including the landmark Snyder case) and jurisdictional briefs in the United States Supreme Court. The majority of the trial work involved condemnation and inverse condemnation proceedings for road construction projects, parks, water treatment and solid waste facilities. Represented the county in multiple jury trials extending 7 to 10 days each and a three week bench trial with 5 other attorneys. Other types of cases involved foreclosure, bankruptcy, garnishment, personnel, billboard removal, statutory ways of necessity, and defense of ordinances. Administrative hearings on land use and environmental issues before administrative judges. Circuit court appeals of various land use decisions estimated at 60 appeals.
- Job requirements also include reviewing contracts, drafting ordinances and advising various county departments. Departments represented during the course of employment include Planning and Zoning, Utility Services, Valkaria Airport, Mosquito Control, Stormwater, Land Development, Land Acquisition, Public Works, Vacating, Parks and Recreation, Address Assignment, Surveying, MSBUs, Housing and Human Services, Tourism, Solid Waste, Transit Services, Library Services, Contractor Licensing and Building.

1985-1986 Spielvogel and Goldman, P.A., Merritt Island, Florida.

Worked as an associate in a general practice law firm with an emphasis on real property law.

1983-1985 Law clerk, Second District Court of Appeals, Lakeland, Florida. Judge Monterey Campbell, III
Reviewed briefs, summarized arguments, researched issues presented and opinions as directed by Judge Campbell.

Fall, 1982 Mathias and Mathias, Orlando, Florida. Student law clerk.

Summer, 1982 Darby, Peele and Bowdin, Lake City, Florida. Student law clerk

Professional Associations and Awards

Florida Bar Board Certified in Real Property, 1992 to present

AV Rating, Martindale-Hubbell

Brevard County Bar, Professionalism Award, 2002

Florida Supreme Court Certification as Circuit Court Mediator, 2013

Professionalism Award, Brevard County Bar Association, April, 2002

Florida Bar Grievance Committee, 1994-1997

Vassar B. Carlton Inns of Court, 1995 to 1998

Florida Association of Counties, Eminent Domain Legislation Task Force, 1992-1993

Real Property Section, Government Land Use Committee, Subcommittee monitoring case law development, Florida Bar Association, 1992-1993

Board of Directors, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Brevard, 1989-1992

Network of Central Brevard, 1986

Member Board of Directors of Crippled Children's Center, 1986-1988

Bar Membership and Certification

Florida Bar, admitted 1983, certified in real property, 1992

Brevard County Bar Association

Also admitted to practice:

Middle District of Florida,

Southern District Bankruptcy Court, Pro Hac Vice appearance only

Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeal

United States Supreme Court

Education and Activities

University of Florida Law School, 1980-1983, J.D. 1983

University of Florida, 1977-1979, B.A. 1979

Also Attended:

Universitet Adam Mickiewicz, Poznan, Poland, Summer, 1979

University of South Florida, Summer, 1978

Escuela Libre de Derecho, Mexico City, Mexico, Summer, 1981

International Moot Court Team, 1982

Golden Key Honor Society

Kappa Delta Sorority, 1977-1979

AEC Spanish School, La Fortuna, Costa Rica, Summer 2009



Tammy Rowe, Clerk to the Board, 400 South Street • P.O. Box 999, Titusville, Florida 32781-0999

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Tammy.Rowe@brevardclerk.us

February 21, 2018

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Scott Knox, County Attorney

RE: Item VI.D.1., Appointment of Interim County Attorney

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on February 20, 2018, appointed Eden Bentley, Deputy County Attorney, as Interim County Attorney upon your retirement on March 30, 2018, until the selection of a new County Attorney by the Board.

Your continued cooperation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK**

Tammy Rowe, Deputy Clerk

cc: Each Commissioner
County Manager
Deputy County Attorney Bentley