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Hanks selected to serve as president of school board

By Myrna Trauntvein
Times-News Correspondent

Tracy Olsen and Linda Hanks took the oath of office administered by Darin Clark, business administrator for the Juab School District on Wednesday evening.

Following the swearing-in of Clark, district business administrator; the administration of the oath of office to the two re-elected board members, Olsen and Hanks; and the presentation of the monthly recognition of excellence awards, the board of education re-organized its leadership.

"This takes place every two years," said Dale Whitlock, board president. "I appreciate the opportunity that I have had to serve for the past four years as board president."

However, he said, it was time for a change.

Whitlock then nominated Linda Hanks to serve as board president.

"I wouldn't have nominated her without talking to her first," said Whitlock. "She has agreed to serve."

The voting for Hanks was unanimous.

Mary Nielson was then nominated and elected to replace Hanks as board vice president.

"I have appreciated Dale's leadership as board president," said Dr. Rick Robins, superintendent. "I would like to offer a sincere thank you to Dale for his dedicated service as board president over the past four years."

When he had been appointed superintendent, said Robins, he had found Whitlock to be most helpful.

"Congratulations to Linda and Mary on their new positions," said Robins.

Whitlock was also recently elected to serve another term as a member of the UHSAA (Utah High School Activities Association) board of trustees, said Robins.

Whitlock has been president of the board since January 2011.

Following the elections, he and Hanks switched seats and Hanks conducted the rest of the meeting.

Whitlock said it was healthy for the board and for the community to alternate the position of board president.

This is Hanks' second term on the board as representative from District 5. Olsen was re-elected to the board in November, representing District 4. This is his third term. He has served eight years.

He is the business administrator for the Nebo School District and Hanks is a teacher in that district also.

For many years, it was the tradition that the senior member of the board served as board president.

However, four years ago, the board discussed the position of president and decided that it would be wise to change the make up of the board by rotating the office of president of the board and by holding the elections every two years.

"Because of our reorganization, we will need to make some adjustments in the committees that we serve on," said Nielson.



SCHOOL BOARD SWEAR IN • Tracy Olsen and Linda Hanks took the oath of office administered by Darin Clark, business administrator for the Juab School District on Wednesday evening. Inset Darin Clark was sworn in by Dale Whitlock, outgoing board president. Story on page 2.

Representative Cox gives legislative update to city council

By Myrna Trauntvein
Times-News Correspondent

Representative Jon Cox (R), from Ephraim, gave a brief legislative update to Nephi City Council members on Tuesday.

Cox, State of Utah House of Representatives, District 58 which encompasses the populated area of East Juab County and all of Sanpete County, also fielded questions from council members.

Cox is on the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee, the House Business and Labor Committee, the House Rules Committee and the House

Transportation Committee.

He is the chief sponsor of H.B.97, which concerns the election of officials of a new municipality.

In the 2015 general session is also the chief sponsor of Education Amendments (In Process), Federal Toll Waiver (In Process), High School Athletic Classifications (In Process), Justice Courts--Funding (In Process), Online Voting Amendments (In Process) and Voter Preregistration Amendments (In Process).

"In the 2014 Legislature," said Mark Jones, mayor, "there was a bill before the legislature that was gaining momentum and steam. It was SB 243."

The city had great concerns that the bill would have an adverse affect on small cities. The bill would have required utilities (including municipal utilities) to charge and collect \$1 per month from customers and remit the collection to an interlocal entity that would seek methods to improve air quality.

The Utah League of Cities and Towns (ULCT) staff and members voiced concerns in committee last week—including the state of Utah using local utility billing and local funds to pay for state priorities, the lack of detail about the interlocal entity that would receive the money, and the administrative

burden—but the bill passed out of committee because of the political effort to improve Utah's air quality. ULCT joined a coalition of other opponents and the bill never came up for a vote in the House.

"We, as a city, contacted Jon regarding our skepticism and he was very responsive and supportive," said Jones, "our interaction was very positive."

Cox said he was very interested in the issue of transportation and funding of roads in his district.

See Cox on page 2

Security at county building needs to be improved

By Myrna Trauntvein
Times-News Correspondent

A resident of Nephi told county commissioners that he thought there needed to be more security for the offices at the county building.

"After what is going on in the world and in America, Utah and Nephi, I think that the county building needs more security," said Leonard Trauntvein.

He was attending county commission meeting, he said, to urge the county commission to take steps now to provide the people working in the various offices in the county building the security they needed to make their jobs safer.

For example, he said, the treasurer's office, where taxes are collected, is wide open. There is a small swing-in gate on the one end but, where the safe is located, there is nothing to keep anyone from walking back to that area.

"In all the offices, there needs to be some parameters set," said Trauntvein. "For example, people need to sign in with their name, the time they are going in, their purpose for being in that office and the time they

leave."

All offices should have some sort of remote control device that they could use to call for help. They could call the police department on the same block or could call the sheriff's office to receive fast assistance.

In addition, there needs to be some type of barriers to protect those working in each office, he said.

In the recorder's office, people can just walk into the records room. They can go in as a group. In the past, they have taken in food and drinks. Signs need to be posted to keep those visiting the office from doing that because the records are precious and a spill could spoil a piece of history.

At the county commission's meetings, said Trauntvein, he thinks that an officer should be present. Some citizens come in angry or get upset.

"There should be an officer at the back of the room," he said.

Rick Carlton, commissioner, said that the county had already started to take some steps toward making the building safer. The commission had started with the upstairs justice court area and had been working to make that area more secure.

After Fourth District Court moved to their own building, he said, the county commission had been seeing to it that modifications were being made to the upstairs area where the justice judge is located.

He said residents would begin to see some dramatic changes in the next year or so.

"We have met with the county officials to get their input, it just takes some planning and budgeting," said Carlton.

There were some things that could be done right away, said Trauntvein. For example, patrons using the offices should have to sign in.

If you go to see the county assessor, the employees at the front of the office ask you what you need to see him about before they let you go back.

Byron Woodland, commission chairman, said that he agreed that there were some steps that could be taken now to assure that the offices would have more safety.

Some of those changes would not need to cost much, he said.

Trauntvein suggested having an expert come in and walk through the building and make suggestions on ways to improve the security of the building.

Clinton Painter, commissioner, said the commission could have a consultant come in and give the commission some ideas of security measures that could be taken.

He also liked the idea of having a sign-in for patrons of the various offices in the county building. He said he had found it common practice in many offices.

Woodland said that a lot of places had bullet-proof windows installed between the customers and the office personnel. One government office he had visited in another community had such a setup.

After the district court had moved to their new location, there were few law enforcement officers who now walked through the hallways. Perhaps, those officers could be asked to do walk-throughs on a consistent basis.

"We would like to make some major changes to the building," said Woodland.

He said that they had been talking about ways to make the building more secure and were

See Security on page 2

See Board on page 2

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