

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
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Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
April 05, 2016

[CONFIRMATION]

The Committee on Government, Military and Veterans Affairs met at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 5, 2016, in Room 1507 of the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing for confirmations for the State Emergency Response Commission and the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission. Senators present: John Murante, Chairperson; Tommy Garrett, Vice Chairperson; Dave Bloomfield; Matt Hansen; and Beau McCoy. Senators absent: Joni Craighead; Mike Groene; and Tyson Larson.

SENATOR MURANTE: (Recorder Malfunction)...Committee. We just are standing at ease upstairs so the members are making their way downstairs as we speak right now. While they are making their way down, we will complete some formalities. Anyone who is here for the purposes of testifying on any of the matters before us and before we begin, we can say that we are here for the purposes of conducting public hearings on gubernatorial appointees. Those appointees will be taken up in the order on which they appear on the agenda outside of this room. If you intend to testify for any of the people who are being appointed today, we ask that you fill out a green sheet, which are located on either side of the room. If you do not wish to testify, but wish to register your support or opposition to any of the people we have before us today, again there are sign-in sheets on either side of the room. If you do testify, we ask that you begin by stating and spelling your name for the record. If you have anything to submit to the committee, we ask that you submit it to the clerk and we will have it distributed to the rest of the committee. I will briefly have a recognition of the members on the committee as they begin to file their way down. Sherry Shaffer, to my far left, is our committee clerk. State Senator Joni Craighead from Omaha. State Senator Beau McCoy, also from Omaha, is joining us as we speak. State Senator Matt Hansen to my immediate left represents Lincoln, Nebraska. To my right is Andrew Lagrane, the committee's research analyst. And to his right, state Senator Tommy Garrett of Bellevue, Nebraska. Senator Garrett is the Vice Chair of this committee. State Senator Dave Bloomfield from Hoskins, Nebraska. And to his right, state Senator Tyson Larson. Followed up by state Senator Mike Groene of North Platte. The first matter before us is the appointment of Kim Plouzek, I hope I pronounced that correctly, who we have on the phone. Welcome, and tell us a little bit about yourself. [CONFIRMATION]

KIMBERLY PLOUZEK: (Exhibit 1) Good afternoon. I apologize for not being able to be there in person, I am attending a training for work. I currently am working for the State Military Department in a new role, I started with them in October. Previous to that, I was a public servant in the public health world and was recruited to be a member of the State Emergency Response Commission when I was with a rural district health department: Public Health Solutions. It's been probably I want to say four years that I've sat on the SERC and fulfilled the environmental chair. And so now in my new position I hope to continue to serve on the State Emergency Response Commission and fulfill that environmental chair. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR MURANTE: All right, thank you very much for your testimony. Are there any questions from the committee members? Seeing none, thank you very much. We appreciate you calling in, and we will let you know promptly about the vote, which we plan on taking today. [CONFIRMATION]

KIMBERLY PLOUZEK: Thank you very much. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR MURANTE: I did not have an opportunity...I neglected to mention that we do use the light system in the Government Committee. We'll allow three minutes of testimony for anyone if they wish to testify on any of the matters before us. So are there any proponents? Anyone wishing to speak in favor of this appointment? Are there any opponents? Is there any neutral testimony? Seeing none, that closes the public hearing on Kim Plouzek to the State Emergency Response Commission. Next up we have the appointment of Jeffery Davis to the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission. Welcome. [CONFIRMATION]

JEFF DAVIS: (Exhibit 1) Thank you. Good afternoon, my name is Jeff Davis. I am an attorney in Beatrice, Nebraska. I've lived in Beatrice for about seven years. I'm in private practice, I'm merely transactional sort of work: estate planning, probate, real estate tax. I've been involved in several community organizations in Beatrice, I'm the treasurer of our local Kiwanis Club, I'm active in the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and several other sorts of community service organizations. I haven't ever been appointed to any statewide office before, but I appreciate the confidence that the Governor has and would certainly be willing to answer any questions that the members of the committee would have. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR MURANTE: All right, thank you very much. Are there any questions? Seeing none, thank you very much for coming down today. [CONFIRMATION]

JEFF DAVIS: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR MURANTE: Much appreciate it. Is there any proponent testimony to the confirmation of Jeffery Davis to the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission? Is there any opposition testimony? Is there any neutral testimony? Seeing none, that closes the hearing on Jeffery Davis' confirmation and we'll proceed to the last item on the agenda, the confirmation of Douglas Hegarty to the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission. Welcome. [CONFIRMATION]

DOUG HEGARTY: (Exhibit 1) Good afternoon. Thank you. My name is Doug Hegarty, I live in Omaha. I'm a lifelong Omahan, graduated from Omaha Central, UNO, with a degree in business

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administration and information systems. I've been with PayPal for over 15 years, in a variety of leadership roles. Currently, senior manager in our operational excellence division. That's a part of our global operations division. My wife and I...Melissa, have two young daughters, also small business owners. We have a franchise called Nothing Bundt Cakes, one in Omaha and one in Lincoln. As well, first-time appointment to a position. I'm active in a number of nonprofit organizations: Christ the King Church, Ak-Sar-Ben Foundation, among others. And looking forward to serving and welcome any questions you might have. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR MURANTE: All right, thank you very much for coming down today. Are there any questions? Seeing none...oh, excuse me, Senator McCoy. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR McCOY: I'll have a comment. Your cakes are wonderful. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR MURANTE: I'll second that motion. Any additional questions? Real hardballs for you today. All right, thank you very much for coming down. Much appreciate it. [CONFIRMATION]

DOUG HEGARTY: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR MURANTE: Is there any proponent testimony to this confirmation? Mr. Quandahl, welcome back to your committee on Government, Military and Veterans Affairs. [CONFIRMATION]

MARK QUANDAHL: Sure. Mark Quandahl, Q-u-a-n-d-a-h-l. I'm currently the director of the Department of Banking and Finance. Just wanted to come in support of Doug Hegerty for Accountability and Disclosure Commission. Just I've known Doug for a number of years and we've done things, not only on a social basis, but also a charitable basis too. He's a great guy and he'll make a great addition to Accountability and Disclosure. So he's a great public servant. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR MURANTE: All right, thank you very much for coming down today. Any questions? Seeing none, thank you very much. Good to see you. [CONFIRMATION]

MARK QUANDAHL: Certainly. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR MURANTE: Is there additional proponent testimony to this confirmation? Is there any opponent testimony? Is there any neutral testimony? Seeing none, that closes the hearing on Douglas Hegarty and ends our public hearings for the day. Thank you everyone for coming

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down. We'll go into a brief...and there's a motion to go into Exec Session. Is there a second?
[CONFIRMATION]