

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held on September 6, 2017 at 1:30 P.M. in the Commissioner room at the courthouse in Lakota. The public is encouraged to attend to discuss their suggestions, concerns or recommendations of the following plan.

Preliminary Resolution

Plan to Designate The Office of Nelson County Auditor To an Appointed Office

The Nelson County Commission believes it is in the best long-term interest of Nelson County to provide for the employment of qualified, experienced, knowledgeable and technically competent county officeholders. The Nelson County Auditor serves as the chief financial officer of Nelson County, and has specific knowledge concerning the operations and fiscal affairs of the County. It is in the County's best interest to ensure continuity of personnel and to consider contingency and transitional planning for the position of Nelson County Auditor. For those reasons, the Commission believes it is in the best long-term interests of Nelson County to exercise its authority to designate the Office of Nelson County Auditor as an appointed position, whereby the Nelson County Commission will appoint the Nelson County Auditor. The Commission has composed the following plan to accomplish this change.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NELSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS that it gives preliminary approval of the following plan: To designate the office of County Auditor from elected to appointed. The Nelson County Board of Commissioners has the authority to accomplish this plan through the provisions in pursuant to N.D.C.C. 11-10-2 (Tool Chest Provisions).

ANALYSIS:

The County Auditor is currently elected for a term of four years and takes office the first Monday of April succeeding the election. (N.D.C.C. 11-13-01) The position of County Auditor covers a wide spectrum of duties and responsibilities enumerated throughout the Century Code, but found primarily in N.D.C.C. 11-123. The County Auditor is the chief financial officer of the county responsible for keeping complete and detailed records of all financial transactions of the county, including preparation of the county budget, monthly business transactions including but not limited to management of claims against the county and preparation of financial statements.

The Auditor is responsible for the calculation of mill levies for all taxing districts, preparation of tax lists, maintenance of outstanding tax lists, administering tax title actions, and conducting tax sales.

The Auditor serves as secretary to the County Commission and several other related county boards and committees. Every other year the Auditor is the Elections Administrator, responsible for all phases of federal, state and local elections.

THE PLAN:

The office of Nelson County Auditor will hereafter be designated as an appointed position at the end of the current term, occurring April 1, 2019. The person appointed to the position of Nelson County Auditor at the end of the term of the current officeholder, shall continue in the same capacity, and there will be no changes in duties and/or responsibilities of the Nelson County Auditor. Upon appointment, the Nelson County Auditor shall become an "employee" of Nelson County, subject to the terms and conditions of employment as found in the Nelson County Personnel Policy Manual. The salary will be determined at the time of the appointment, and the Nelson County Auditor shall be granted benefits as an employee equal to the years of service for the County as an employee and/or elected official.

PROPOSED OFFICE ORGANIZATION:

There are no changes in office organization contemplated by the designation of the Nelson County Auditor as an appointed position.

EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY:

There are no changes in effectiveness and efficiency contemplated by the designation of the Nelson County Auditor as an appointed position. The responsibilities and duties assigned to the Nelson County Auditor will be carried out in a manner consistent with the law and without disruption of services provided to the public. The long-term effectiveness and efficiency will be increased, however, insofar as the Nelson County Commission will have the ability to do transition planning to ensure that changes in the Nelson County Auditor's Office can be address based upon the needs of the office as opposed to an election schedule.