

**ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

ACTION AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

Meeting Date: June 15, 2010

Action Agenda

Item No. 4-C

SUBJECT: The Appointment of Deborah Brooks to Serve as Successor Register of Deeds in the Event of a Vacancy in the Office of Register of Deeds

DEPARTMENT: Register of Deeds

PUBLIC HEARING: (Y/N)

No

ATTACHMENT(S):

Resolution

INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joyce Pearson, 245-2676
John Roberts, 245-2318

PURPOSE: To approve a resolution to allow for the appointment of a Successor Register of Deeds should a vacancy in the Office of the Register of Deeds occur.

BACKGROUND: Joyce Pearson is currently the elected Register of Deeds of Orange County, North Carolina. Ms. Pearson has indicated plans to retire effective June 30, 2010. At the time Ms. Pearson's retirement becomes effective, the Office will be vacant and the Board of Commissioners will be on summer break and thus unable to appoint a Successor Register of Deeds. Deborah Brooks is currently employed as Assistant Register of Deeds. In the recent May primary election, Ms. Brooks was the only candidate lawfully registered for the Office of Register of Deeds effectively making her the next Register of Deeds as of December of this year. At its May 27, 2010 meeting the Orange County Democratic Party Executive Committee recommended Ms. Brooks be appointed to fill Ms. Pearson's vacant position.

North Carolina General Statute §161-5 states: "When a vacancy occurs from any cause in the office of register of deeds, the board of county commissioners shall fill such vacancy by the appointment of a successor for the unexpired term, who shall qualify and give bond as required by law."

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None

RECOMMENDATION(S): The Manager recommends the Board approve the attached Resolution appointing Deborah Brooks as Successor Register of Deeds effective only upon the retirement of current Register of Deeds Joyce Pearson for the duration of the unexpired term of Ms. Pearson's office and set Ms. Brooks' salary as Register of Deeds at \$73,377.

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**RESOLUTION APPOINTING DEBORAH BROOKS SUCCESSOR
REGISTER OF DEEDS UPON THE RETIREMENT
OF JOYCE PEARSON**

WHEREAS, Joyce Pearson, Orange County Register of Deeds, after many years of dedicated service to Orange County and its citizens and residents, has announced her retirement effective June 30, 2010; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute §161-5 states: "When a vacancy occurs from any cause in the office of register of deeds, the board of county commissioners shall fill such vacancy by the appointment of a successor for the unexpired term, who shall qualify and give bond as required by law;" and

WHEREAS, on June 30, 2010 and for the next approximately one and one half months the Orange County Board of Commissioners will be on its summer recess and unable to appoint a Successor Register of Deeds to fill the unexpired term of Ms. Pearson; and

WHEREAS, Deborah Brooks, Assistant Register of Deeds, is qualified to hold the office of Register of Deeds, is the only candidate lawfully registered for the office in the current election cycle, is willing to serve the unexpired term of current Register of Deeds Joyce Pearson, and is recommended by the Orange County Democratic Party Executive Committee to fill the vacancy created by Ms. Pearson's retirement; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Orange County and its citizens and residents that Orange County have an individual serving the needs of its citizens and residents in the official capacity of Orange County Register of Deeds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Orange County Board of Commissioners does hereby appoint Deborah Brooks as Successor Register of Deeds, that this appointment is effective only upon the retirement of Joyce Pearson, that bond for the office is approved in the same amount as currently exists, that the salary for the Successor Register of Deeds is set at \$73,377.00, and this appointment shall be of such duration as to fill the unexpired portion of the term of Joyce Pearson.

This the 15th day of June 2010.

Valerie Foushee, Chair
Orange County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Clerk to the Board of Commissioners