



Emily Anne Staples Tuttle papers.

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NOTICE OF NOMINATION
OF
Candidate Without Party Designation

HENNEPIN County, Minnesota

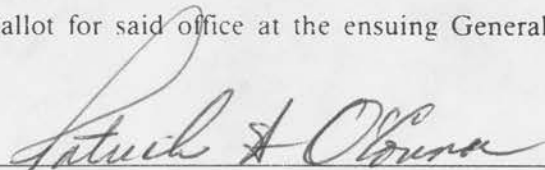
Office of County Auditor SEPTEMBER 25 19 92

To EMILY ANNE STAPLES **and All Whom It May Concern:**

Pursuant to the Provisions of Section 204C.32 Minnesota Election Laws, you are hereby notified of your nomination as a candidate without party designation for the office of COUNTY COMMISSIONER

DISTRICT 7 at a Primary Election held on the 15TH day of September, 19 92

Your name will therefore be placed on the Election Ballot for said office at the ensuing General Election.



County Auditor.

NOTE: — When only two persons file for the nomination for any office without party designation, or not more than twice the number of persons to be elected to any office without party designation file for nomination thereof, their names shall not be placed on the Primary Ballot without party designation, but said persons shall be considered and shall be the nominees for such office and their names shall be placed on the General Election Ballot as such nominees.

Metro/State news

THE MONDAY BRIEFING / Government

Hennepin board may meet by the rules

By Steve Brandt
Staff Writer

Will the Mississippi flow upstream? Will the Timberwolves go on a tear? It's entirely possible if the Hennepin County Board takes the revolutionary step of adopting rules of procedure.

Commissioners seem on the verge of doing just that. They gave preliminary approval last week to a set of rules. Final approval is scheduled for Feb. 2.

Randy Johnson of Bloomington, the board's most senior member, has been on the board since 1979. He's been urging adoption of rules for years. The move to do so bespeaks how much the seven commissioners who took office this month differ from previous boards.

So why are rules important?

"It's our step toward bringing order to chaos," Johnson said. More order is probably more important to the Hennepin County Board than most public bodies. Some of its policy alterations, involving former casts of commissioners, have been compared to food fights.

Rules also tend to protect the minority, said Johnson, who as an Independent-Republican has found himself in the board's political minority in recent years. But protecting the minority has implications for all commissioners because votes are far more frequently shaped by policy differences than party lines. Any commissioner is likely to end up on the minority end of a debate on a given day.

Commissioners Mark Andrew and Peter McLaughlin, assisted by the county attorney's office, played the chief role in drafting the proposed rules. Rules are nothing unusual for government bodies with as much or more prominence as the County Board. The Minnesota House and Senate



Staff Photo by Charles Bjorgen

The Hennepin County Board has been operating without rules — so far.

have lengthy sets of rules. The Minneapolis City Council has seven pages of rules. But rules are uncommon among Minnesota counties. Hennepin's proposed maiden set runs a scant five pages, about the same length as the index to the state Senate's rules.

The proposed rules cover such mundane matters as what's a quorum and which parliamentary guide will be used for matters not governed by the rules. They also give the chairman or chairwoman power to appoint committee members and adjourn meetings unless challenged. Some rules grow out of the board's infrequent but explosive forays into the abortion arena. The new rules incorporate a policy the board adopted in 1989 after commissioners voted without notice to end coverage for elective abortions under employee health insurance plans. A mob of jeering employees confronted commissioners the next day.

The policy requires resolutions to be referred to committee before consideration by the board unless they're noncontroversial, commendatory, recommended for immediate approval by the chief administrator, or urgent enough that delay has adverse consequences for the county. The latter exception requires support by five of the board's seven members.

The proposed rules also require a majority of four votes to move resolutions out of the board's seven-member committee. The seven commissioners typically consider items in six or seven different committees, which all amount to committees of the whole, on a Thursday, then take them up as the full board for final approval the next Tuesday. Andrew acknowledged that this would have barred his 1991 proposal to earmark \$100,000 for family planning, which made it out of committee on a 3-2 vote with one commissioner out of town and another out of

the room. He said he wants to avoid fluke votes.

Some of the proposed rules seem to borrow from Robert Fulghum's "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten." One rule bars *ad hominem* discussions. That means stick to the issues and stay away from saying nasty things about people. Another rule reminds participants that the minority on an issue has rights, too. But those rights aren't inexhaustible. Four members can invoke an end to debate lengthened by what the rules describe as a "determined minority." That reminds some of former Commissioner John Derus's morning-long grilling of witnesses when he opposed expanding the medical center.

Still, despite the new faces, the board's basic and most important rule as enunciated by Derus and others remains unchanged: All a commissioner needs to be able to do to succeed on the County Board is to be able to count to four.

Hospital copter service in the red

By Jim Parsons
Staff Writer

Most rumors that bubble up during political campaigns die quickly after the votes are counted, but one involving a former Hennepin County commissioner is still alive and well. Sort of.

The rumor: Thanks to John Derus, the county's joint operation of an emergency helicopter service with North Memorial Medical Center was a sweetheart deal for the privately owned hospital in Robbinsdale. Derus was chairman of the Hennepin County Board at the time, and his wife, Susan, was a member of North Memorial's board.

County administrators say there was nothing nefarious about Derus' role. They say he stepped in when negotiations had bogged down and when it looked like North Memorial had no interest in being partners with the Hennepin County

Medical Center in the operation, known as Air Care.

"We were the ones pursuing a joint operation," said medical center administrator Dan McLaughlin, "not the other way around."

And Derus, acknowledging his potential conflict of interest, abstained when the County Board unanimously approved an operating agreement with North Memorial in 1991. Derus is no longer in office, having been upset in the November election by Mike Opat.

But that isn't the end of the story. A citizen's inquiry recently prompted Commissioner Peter McLaughlin's aide to ask hospital administrators for a financial analysis of the helicopter operation. Board Chairman Mark Andrew also is interested.

The analysis shows that the helicopter

service operates in the red. In 1991, the loss was about \$500,000.

It lost about that much in the first six months of 1992 with the county's share of the loss about \$180,000 and North Memorial's nearly \$330,000. The major reason for the difference is that Hennepin County uses about 10 percent of the helicopter runs, which bring in patients from throughout Minnesota and adjoining states. North Memorial accounts for about 50 percent of the flights, and the remaining 40 percent go to other hospitals.

Administrators initially thought that the hospital made a "profit" on the Air Care patients, which would have helped to offset the losses on the helicopter. But the analysis showed that direct costs and revenues from the patients are virtually equal. So the service is costing the county in the neighborhood of \$350,000 a year.



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