

...five minutes to speak and Commissioner John Schoonmaker reviewed their voting record as to whether or not they voted in recent elections. Each of the commissioners except for Evelyn Gill and Brad Anders asked occasional questions.

Beeler said he was born in Zacharytown within the district and worked 31 years in the Register of Deeds office. Beeler pointed out that the north and east Knox County district has lots of land for future development, praised the three new schools there and cited



PHOTO BY MIKE STEELY

Richie Beeler takes the oath of office from Judge Kristi Davis. He was selected from several applicants to serve the remaining term of the 8th District commissioner, Dave Wright, who was elected to the Tennessee legislature.

the opioid crisis as the area's biggest problem.

When asked by Commissioner Larsen Jay if he might run for reelection after serving Wright's two remaining term years, Beeler said he has "no idea, no plans."

When asked why he would be the best person for the position,

Beeler said he was teachable and he knows how Knox County works.

Prior to the vote Commissioner Randy Smith said he would have preferred a special election but said the cost of holding one was prohibitive.

Chairman Hugh Nystrom said

the commission "has a deep bevy of qualified applicants."

With 10 commissioners voting, a total of six votes were needed to select the new 8th District commissioner.

Commissioner Anders nominated Beeler and Commissioner Charles Busler suggested

Longmire to speak for a couple minutes.

The fourth round saw Longmire's vote drop to two, Gill and Jay, which eliminated her. Nystrom changed his vote and went for Beeler.

In the final round of voting Jay joined Carringer, Smith, Nystrom, Anders and Biggs to give Richie Beeler the nod. Gill, Schoonmaker, Busler and Dailey voted for Sanders.

Beeler was sworn in immediately after the decision and will serve until August 21, 2020.

Knox County to host 20th Annual Holiday Festival of Lights

Knox County's 20th annual Holiday Festival of Lights at The Cove at Concord Park kicks off Friday, Dec. 21 with Mayor Glenn Jacobs hosting a meet and greet and passing out free candy "Kanes."

The family-friendly event starts that evening at 6:30 p.m. with a ribbon

ceremony and thousands of lights to the trees.

Although the event is free, Knox County will collect non-perishable food items for The Love Kitchen. This nonprofit provides meals, clothing and emergency food packages to the homebound, home-

