

Clinton County Government Study Commission Meeting
April 11, 2007
Minutes

Call To Order:

Chairman Mike Hanna called the Commission to order at 6:35 p.m. at the Clinton County Courthouse. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was participated in by all present.

Roll Call:

Ms. Gardner took roll call as follows:

Present were: Ms. Deb Day, Mr. Mike Hanna, Mr. Dan Harger arrived at 6:44 p.m., Dr. Kathleen McQuaid arrived at 6:48 p.m., Mr. Richard Novosel, Mr. Terry O'Connor, Mr. Ernie Renninger and Mr. Les Robinson.

Absent was: Ms. June Houser, Ms. Coreena Meyer, and Dr. Bob Wise.

Pennsylvania Economy League representative present was Mr. Charles Watters, Mr. Joe Boyle and Mr. Gerard Cross.

Approve Agenda:

Mr. O'Connor made a motion to approve the April 11, 2007 agenda as presented. Mr. Novosel seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion to approve the April 11, 2007 agenda was approved unanimously.

Reports:

Invoice Review:

No invoices to review at this time.

New and Continuing Business:

Legislative Branch Review:

The Commission reviewed the answers from the questions presented on The Express website regarding the number of legislators and districts. It was noted that the poll was very informal. The Commission did feel that they needed to consider the input they

have received from the public even if it was a small amount. There was considerable discussion on the following:

- Number of Legislators.
- District Representation.
- Minority representation on the Legislative Board.
- Staggering of terms for the Legislative Board.
- Compensation of the Legislators.
- Transitional Legislative Board.
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The following changes were made to the Home Rule Charter:

Ms. Day made a motion to remove District representation from the Charter and decrease the number of Legislators to 5 elected at-large. Mr. Novosel seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took roll call vote whereby the motion to remove District representation from the Charter and decrease the number of Legislators to 5 elected at-large was approved as follows: Six Yeas, One Nay: Mr. O'Connor and One Not Participating: Dr. McQuaid.

Mr. Robinson made a motion to have the 5 Legislators have minority representation: 3 majority and 2 minority and have the transitional Legislative Board consist of the 5 at-large Charter Legislators and the 3 incumbent Commissioners. Mr. Harger seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took roll call vote whereby the motion to have the 5 Legislators have minority representation: 3 majority and 2 minority and have the transitional Legislative Board consist of the 5 at-large Charter Legislators and the 3 incumbent Commissioners was approved as follows: Four Yeas: Mr. Harger, Mr. Novosel, Mr. Renninger, and Mr. Robinson, Three Nays: Ms. Day, Mr. Hanna, and Mr. O'Connor and One Not Participating: Dr. McQuaid.

Mr. Harger made a motion to set the initial salary of the 5 Legislators elected at-large at \$6,000.00 per year. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took roll call vote whereby the motion to set the initial salary of the 5 Legislators elected at-large at \$6,000.00 per year was approved as follows: Six Yeas, One Nay: Mr. O'Connor and One Not Participating: Dr. McQuaid.

Mr. Robinson made a motion to allow the provision for mileage reimbursement to the Legislators when on County business. Mr. Harger seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took roll call vote whereby the motion to allow the provision for mileage reimbursement to the Legislators when on County business was approved as follows: Six Yeas, One Nay: r. O'Connor and One Not Participating: Dr. McQuaid.

Mr. O'Connor made a motion to put the Home Rule Charter on the November 2007 ballot. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took roll call vote whereby the motion to put the Home Rule Charter on the November 2007 ballot was approved unanimously.

Recommendation to the Citizens of Clinton County:

Comments:

- Number 3 needs to be changed to 5 members and include minority representation.
- Industry responds more favorably when dealing with professional people.
- Review of nepotism.

Final Report:

PEL will write question from the wording of the Law.

Organizational Chart will soon be complete.

Any Commission Members who wants to write a dissention on the Charter needs to complete it by April 18.

The PEL informed the Commission that the final vote on the Charter will need to be taken at the meeting on May 2. Also at this meeting the following will need to be completed:

- Certification Page signed by the Commission Members.
- Signatures need to be notarized at the meeting.
- Financial report will need to be completed.
- Final report will need to be distributed immediately.
- Solicitor should attend this meeting.

The PEL noted that the Commission can still make changes up to 60 days before the election where the Charter is on the ballot.

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Commission members asked if signing the Certification Page indicates their approval of the Home Rule Charter. PEL suggested this question be forwarded to the Solicitor for clarification. It was noted the Certification statement is: This is the true and correct copy of the Home Rule Charter.

Commission asked about those Members who may not be at the May 2 meeting to sign the Certification Page. PEL suggested this also be forwarded to the Solicitor so that the Commission is clear on what their responsibility is as an elected official. The Solicitor will also be asked about the provision of proxy voting on May 2.

Communication:

Ms. Day read aloud to the Commission her communication in response to the letter by Dr. McQuaid:

- Scheduling of public meetings.
- Scheduling of Government Study Commission meetings.
- Changing of Order of Business.
- General behaviors that have the effect of silencing opposition, criticism or questions.

Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Renninger made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 4, 2007 as presented. Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took roll call vote whereby the motion to approve the April 4, 2007 minutes was approved as follows: Seven Yeas and One Not Participating: Dr. McQuaid.

Public Comment:

Nothing to report at this time.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 09:04 p.m.

Deb Day, Secretary
Clinton County Government Study Commission
srg