

**Clinton County Government Study Commission Meeting**  
**April 18, 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 6:38 p.m., Dr. Kathleen McQuaid arrived at 6:55 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.

**Approve Agenda:**

***Mr. Novosel made a motion to approve the April 18, 2007 agenda as presented. Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion to approve the April 18 2007 agenda was approved unanimously.***

**Reports:**

**Invoice Review:**

Treasurer O'Connor presented invoices totaling \$330.50 for approval:

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\$161.75 - advertising

\$168.75 - secretarial expenses

\$330.50 - Total

**Mr. Harger made a motion to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$330.50. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$330.50 was approved by Seven Yeas and One Not Participating: Dr. McQuaid.**

Treasurer O'Connor estimates that the total amount spent by the Commission at month ending April is \$37,173.01. He stated he is still working on the financial sheet required for the final report. The PEL noted that the final report needs to identify the amount paid, to what vendor and what were the goods or services. The report also needs a listing of those individuals/organizations who gave services or goods free-of charge. Copies of contracts are not part of the final report. The PEL asked for the financial sheet to be provided to them electronically. Treasurer O'Connor stated the report will be ready for the next meeting.

### **New and Continuing Business:**

The PEL presented the First Full Draft the Home Rule Charter, Report and Recommendations and letters for filing of the Charter for one last review before the vote by the Commission.

The PEL stated that the Commission needs to note any final problems at the next meeting. The Commission's vote on the Home Rule Charter will be at the May 2 meeting. This provides enough time to file the appropriate paperwork. The Commission will still have up to 60 days prior to the election the Charter question is on to make any changes.

The PEL asked all members to review the spelling of their names and let them know of any changes that need to be done.

The PEL reviewed the changes made to the Report and Recommended Home Rule Charter.

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The PEL noted changes/additions as follows:

- Inclusion of a minority report.
- Actual wording of the Charter question.
- 18 months of study and more than 50 meetings.
- Organizational charts.
- Legislators elected at large.

- Compensation to Legislators.
- Minority representation on Legislative Body.
- Removal of District language.
- Wording that the Legislative Body makes appointments to Authorities, Boards and Commissions.
- Preamble.
- President Judge language regarding vacancies.
- Time frame regarding vacancies.
- Travel expenses.

***Ms. Day made a motion to remove Numbers 2 and 4 from the list of citizen obligation and opportunity on page vii of the Report. Mr. Renninger seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took roll call vote whereby the motion to remove Numbers 2 and 4 from the list of citizen obligation and opportunity on page vii of the Report was approved as follows: Seven Yeas and One Nay: Mr. Robinson.***

***Mr. O'Connor made a motion to remove Number 8 from the list of Faults Inherent in the Commission Form of Government. Dr. McQuaid seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took roll call vote whereby the motion to remove Number 8 from the list of Faults Inherent in the Commission Form of Government was defeated as follows: Two Yeas: Dr. McQuaid, Mr. O'Connor and Six Nays.***

***Ms. Day made a motion to remove the last sentence in Article X - Authorities, Boards and Commissions, Section 10.04 - Board of Tax Assessment Appeals, h. allowing for compensation based on what similar Counties are providing. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took roll call vote whereby the motion to remove the last sentence in Article X - Authorities, Boards and Commissions, Section 10.04 - Board of Tax Assessment Appeals, h. allowing for compensation based on what similar Counties are providing was approved as follows: Seven Yeas and One Not Participating: Dr. McQuaid.***

***Mr. O'Connor made a motion to have the May 2, 2007 meeting start at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Day seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took roll call vote whereby the***

***motion to have the May 2, 2007 meeting start at 7:00 p.m. was approved unanimously.***

The PEL asked the Commission to review carefully Article II - Legislative Branch, Section 2.03 - Election, Term and Minority Representation.

The PEL noted that complete copies of the Home Rule Charter will be given to the members at the May 2 meeting. After the vote, the Commission will sign the appropriate pages, notarization will take place and the Commission will take back all the copies. The PEL will then deliver 30 complete copies with signatures on May 3 to the Secretary for distribution.

The Commission will discuss at the April 25 meeting a schedule for meetings after the May 2 vote on the Charter. It was noted that the Commission is not discharged until certification of the election with the Charter question.

The PEL noted that the Commission will need to choose 5 of its members to be included in the Transitional Committee for transitioning to the Home Rule Charter.

Commission noted their solicitor will be attending the May 2 meeting to answer any questions that may arise.

**Meeting Minutes:**

***Mr. O'Connor made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 11, 2007 as presented. Mr. Novosel seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took roll call vote whereby the motion to approve the April 11, 2007 minutes was approved as follows: Seven Yeas and One Not Participating: Dr. McQuaid.***

**Public Comment:**

Public stated now that there is a product - it will need to be decided on its own merit. Public also noted the implication that economic prospects will improve because of professional leadership is not necessarily true.

Commission noted that the possible amendment to allow proxy voting is tabled

indefinitely.

**Adjournment:**

**The meeting adjourned at 08:37 p.m.**

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Deb Day, Secretary  
Clinton County Government Study Commission  
srg

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