

**Clinton County Government Study Commission Meeting**  
**November 1, 2006**  
**Minutes**

**Call To Order:**

Chairman Dan Harger called the Commission to order at 6:37 p.m. at the Clinton County Education and Resource Center. 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 left the meeting at 9:29 p.m., Mr. Daniel Harger, Dr. Kathleen McQuaid arrived at 6:54 p.m., Mr. Richard Novosel, Mr. Terry O'Connor, Mr. Ernie Renninger, Mr. Les Robinson and Dr. Robert Wise arrived at 7:06 p.m..

Absent was: Ms. June Houser and Ms. Coreena Meyer.

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

**Approve Agenda:**

***Mr. Hanna made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion to approve the November 1, 2006 Agenda as presented was approved unanimously.***

**Meeting Minutes of October 25, 2006:**

***Mr. Hanna made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 25, 2006 as presented. Mr. Novosel seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took roll call vote whereby the motion to approve the October 25, 2006 minutes as presented was approved unanimously.***

**Reports:**

**Invoice Review:**

Treasurer O'Connor presented invoices for the PEL for \$2, 382.70, printer cartridge for \$17.75 and website services for \$50.00; totaling \$2,450.45.

***Mr. Hanna made a motion to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$2,450.45. Ms. Day seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion to approve payment of the invoice totaling \$2,450.45 was approved unanimously.***

Budget Hearing:

Treasurer O'Connor reported that the Study Commission's 2007 budget hearing with the County Commissioners is scheduled for Thursday, November 16, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. He asked that as many Study Commission members as possible attend this budget hearing.

2006 Budget Report:

Treasurer O'Connor presented a 2006 Budget Report including available data up to 11/01/06. It is estimated that the Commission will spend approximately \$28,500.00 of the budgeted \$50,000.00 for the 2006 budget year.

**Communication:**

Nothing to report at this time.

**Old Business:**

Dr. McQuaid asked to revisit the decision regarding moving the meeting time up to 6:30 p.m. Due to her teaching schedule she is unable to make a 6:30 p.m. start time.

***Dr. McQuaid made the motion that the Study Commission Meetings start at 7:00 p.m. Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.***

It was suggested that the Charter work be moved up on the agenda. The Administrative Committee will reorganize the agenda.

**New and Continuing Business:**

Size and Shape of the Legislative Body:

The PEL presented Legislative District Maps for discussion purposes of Clinton County with 4 districts and 5 districts. There was significant discussion on which would be more beneficial to the citizens of Clinton County - 4 or 5 districts including the make up of these districts. The PEL reminded the Commission that the districts will need to have a make up where the municipalities are contiguous to each other and allowing for one man one vote.

The PEL stated that question to be answered tonight is how many districts. The matter of the make up of these districts will be decided at a later date.

**Mr. Renninger made the motion that the Legislative Body be made up of 4 districts and 3 at-large members. Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed as follows: Six Yeas: Ms. Day, Mr. Hanna, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Renninger, Mr. Robinson, and Dr. Wise and Three Nays: Mr. Harger, Dr. McQuaid, and Mr. Novosel.**

Executive Body:

Some Commission Members stated they are hearing some concern from the public on the elected executive decision as well as some Commission members expressing concern. The PEL suggested the Commission take two weeks to rethink, review and gather more information regarding this decision. If this decision is changed, certain other questions will need to be revisited. The Budget and Finance Questions cannot be considered until a final decision is reaching on the Executive Body.

Specific Questions for Consideration Relative to "Other Provisions" Under a Home Rule Charter:

**Question 1: Ms. Day made the motion that the Charter will provide for initiative and referendum. Mr. Hanna seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed as follows: Eight Yeas: Ms. Day, Mr. Hanna, Mr. Harger, Mr. Novosel, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Renninger, Mr. Robinson, and Dr. Wise and One Nay: Dr. McQuaid.**

**Question 2: Mr. Robinson made the motion that the Charter should outline on the real estate millage. Mr. Novosel seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed as follows: Eight Yeas: Ms. Day, Mr. Hanna, Mr. Harger, Mr. Novosel, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Renninger, Mr. Robinson, and Dr. Wise and Dr. McQuaid did not participate in the vote.**

**Question 3: Ms. Day made the motion that the Charter will provide for "anti-windfall" provisions relating to tax revenues following a county-wide reassessment. Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed as follows: Eight Yeas: Ms. Day, Mr. Hanna, Mr. Harger, Mr. Novosel, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Renninger, Mr. Robinson, and Dr. Wise and One Nay: Dr. McQuaid.**

**Question 4 is on hold.**

**Question 5: Ms. Day made the motion that the Charter shall address provision of direct collection of County taxes. Mr. Novosel seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed as follows: Seven Yeas: Ms. Day, Mr. Hanna, Mr. Harger, Mr. Novosel, Mr. Renninger, Mr. Robinson, and Dr. Wise and Two Nays: Dr. McQuaid and Mr. O'Connor,**

**Question 6: Ms. Day made the motion that the Charter mandate that the Administrative Code provide for a detailed Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest provisions. Mr. Hanna seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed as follows: Eight Yeas: Ms. Day, Mr. Hanna, Mr. Harger, Mr. Novosel, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Renninger, Mr. Robinson, and Dr. Wise and One Nay: Dr. McQuaid.**

**Question 7: Ms. Day made the motion that the Charter mandate that the Administrative Code provide for a detailed personnel system. Mr. Novosel seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed as follows: Eight Yeas: Ms. Day, Mr. Hanna, Mr. Harger, Mr. Novosel, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Renninger, Mr. Robinson, and Dr. Wise and One Nay: Dr. McQuaid.**

**Question 8: Mr. Novosel made the motion that the Charter mandate a competitive bidding process and the Administrative Code provide the details for the competitive bidding process. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed as follows: Seven Yeas Ms. Day, Mr. Harger, Mr. Novosel, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Renninger, Mr. Robinson, and Dr. Wise and One Nay: Dr. McQuaid.**

**Question 9: Ms. Day made the motion that the Charter shall outline the various administrative departments as an interim structure until the Administrative Code is adopted. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed as follows: Seven Yeas Ms. Day, Mr. Harger, Mr. Novosel, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Renninger, Mr. Robinson, and Dr. Wise and One Nay: Dr. McQuaid.**

**Question 10 and 11 are on hold.**

**Question 12: Ms. Day made the motion that the Charter shall provide for recall to become operative if there is a constitutional change that allows for it. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed as follows: Seven Yeas Ms. Day, Mr. Harger, Mr. Novosel, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Renninger, Mr. Robinson, and Dr. Wise and One Nay: Dr. McQuaid.**

The PEL stated that due the possible revisiting by the Commission on the elected

versus appointed executive the Basic Questions for Consideration Relative to Budget and Finance will be deferred until the decision stands or is changed. At the next meeting the Commission will look at the Basic Questions Relative to the Position(s) of Sheriff, Register and Recorder, Treasurer, Prothonotary, Coroner, and District Attorney under a Home Rule Charter.

**Public Comment:**

Public meetings were suggested for the general public to give their opinions to the Commission.

It was requested that Dr. McQuaid's written statements on her choices be made available on the Commission website.

The public also thought districting for the legislative body could be dangerous territory.

**Adjournment:**

**Ms. Day made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:51 p.m. Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion.**

---

Deb Day, Secretary  
Clinton County Government Study Commission

srg