

**Clinton County Government Study Commission Meeting**  
**November 8, 2006**  
**Minutes**

**Call To Order:**

Chairman Dan Harger called the Commission to order at 7:00 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 8:45 p.m., Mr. Daniel Harger, Mr. Richard Novosel, Mr. Ernie Renninger, Mr. Les Robinson left at 8:40 p.m. and Dr. Robert Wise arrived at 7:08 p.m..

Absent was: Ms. June Houser, Ms. Coreena Meyer, Dr. Kathleen McQuaid and Mr. Terry O'Connor

Pennsylvania Economy League representative present was Mr. Charles Watters.

**Approve Agenda:**

***Ms. Day made a motion to permanently move New and Continuing Business to immediately after Agenda Approval starting with the November 8, 2006 agenda. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion to permanently move New and Continuing Business to immediately after Agenda Approval starting with the November 8, 2006 Agenda was approved unanimously.***

**New and Continuing Business:**

**Basic Questions Relative to the Positions of Sheriff, Register and Recorder, Prothonotary, Treasurer and Coroner:**

The Commission noted that the same questions and motions made apply to all the following Row Officers unless otherwise stated: Sheriff, Register and Recorder, Prothonotary, Treasurer and Coroner.

The Commission also noted that the members receive all questions in advance of the meetings so they have an opportunity to review said questions.

**Question 1: Ms. Day made the motion that the Row Officers' term of office shall be four years. Mr. Novosel seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed as unanimously.**

**Question 2: Mr. Renninger made the motion that there will be no limitations on the number of terms for the Row Officers. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.**

**Question 3: Ms. Day made the motion that the Row Officers will be required to be a citizen of the United States and a registered voter. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.**

**Question 4: Mr. Robinson made the motion that there the Row Officers shall be of a minimum age of 21. Mr. Hanna seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.**

**Question 5: Mr. Robinson made the motion that there the Row Officers shall have no minimum residency requirement prior to election or taking of office. Mr. Novosel seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.**

**Question 6. A: Mr. Robinson made the motion that there the Row Officers of Sheriff, Register and Recorder, Prothonotary, and Treasurer shall devote full time to his/her office. Mr. Hanna seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed as follows: Six Yeas: Ms. Day, Mr. Harger, Mr. Hanna, Mr. Novosel, Mr. Robinson, and Dr. Wise and one not ready to make a decision: Mr. Renninger**

**Question 6. B: Ms. Day made the motion that there the Coroner shall devote the time necessary to adequately fulfill the duties of the office. Mr. Hanna seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed as follows: Six Yeas: Ms. Day, Mr. Harger, Mr. Hanna, Mr. Novosel, Mr. Robinson, and Dr. Wise and one not ready to make a decision: Mr. Renninger**

**Question 7 was deferred.**

**Question 8. B: Mr. Novosel made the motion that Row Officers will be required to forfeit his/her office if he/she no longer meets the qualifications prescribed by applicable State law or this Charter. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.**

**Question 8. C and 8.E. are on hold.**

**Question 8. D: Mr. Robinson made the motion that Row Officers will be required**

***to forfeit his/her office or be removed from office if he/she is convicted of a misbehavior in office or of any infamous crime including any felony or a no contest to charges. Mr. Hanna seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.***

***Question 9: Ms. Day made the motion that a permanent vacancy of the Row Officers shall be filled by the Legislative Body. Mr. Hanna seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.***

***Question 10: Ms. Day made the motion that a permanent vacancy of the Row Officers shall be filled until the next municipal primary or general election. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.***

***Question 11: Ms. Day made the motion that a permanent vacancy of the Row Officers shall be filled by an appointment of the same political party as the person he/she succeeds. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.***

***Question 12: Mr. Robinson made the motion that if the Legislative Body fails to act within 30 days to fill a permanent vacancy of the Row Officers, the Courts shall fill the vacancy. Mr. Hanna seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.***

***Question 13 was tabled.***

***Question 14. A: Mr. Robinson made the motion that there will be a mechanism to change the compensation of the Row Officers but such compensation change will not be effective until the commencement of a new term of office. Mr. Hanna seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.***

***Question 14. B: Mr. Hanna made the motion that no compensation change can be adopted less than twelve months prior to the commencement of a new term of office for the Row Officers, Executive and Legislative Body. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.***

***Question 15: Mr. Robinson made the motion that the Row Officers be entitled to fringe benefits. Mr. Hanna seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.***

***Question 16: Ms. Day made the motion that the Row Officers, Executive and Legislative Body is entitled to necessary expenses as defined in the Personnel***

**Code. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.**

**Question 17: Dr. Wise made the motion that the Row Officers' duties be as presently defined in the County Code (subject to amendment) and as assigned by the Legislative Body in the Administrative Code or by other sections of the Charter. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.**

Basic Questions Relative to the Position of District Attorney:

**Question 1: Mr. Robinson made the motion that the District Attorney's term of office shall be four years. Mr. Renninger seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed as unanimously.**

**Question 2: Mr. Renninger made the motion that there will be no limitations on the number of terms for the District Attorney. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.**

**Question 3: Mr. Hanna made the motion that the District Attorney will be required to be a citizen of the United States and a registered voter. Mr. Novosel seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.**

**Question 4: Mr. Novosel made the motion that there the District Attorney shall be of a minimum age of 21. Mr. Hanna seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.**

**Question 5: Mr. Robinson made the motion that the District Attorney shall reside in the County for one year prior to election or taking of office. Mr. Novosel seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.**

**Question 6: Mr. Robinson made the motion that there the District Attorney be required to have been admitted to practice before the Supreme or Superior Court for at least two years prior to taking the oath of office or have been admitted to practice before the Supreme or Superior Court for at least six months prior to taking the oath of office and have practiced law before a Court of Record for at least five years. Mr. Hanna seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed as unanimously.**

**Question 7 is on hold.**

**Question 8. B: Ms. Day made the motion that the District Attorney will be**

***required to forfeit his/her office if he/she no longer meets the qualifications prescribed by applicable State law or this Charter. Mr. Hanna seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.***

***Question 8. C and 8.E. are on hold.***

***Question 8. D: Ms. Day made the motion that District Attorney will be required to forfeit his/her office or be removed from office if he/she is convicted of a misbehavior in office or of any infamous crime including any felony or a no contest to charges. Mr. Hanna seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.***

The PEL asked the Commission to read and scrutinize the Proforma "Conditional" Article on Recall and the Proforma Article on Initiative and Referendum before the next meeting.

**Public Comment:**

The public made the comment that the Study Commission should stand behind the decisions they have made so far in the process. The Commission members are the ones who have studied the various forms of government and made their decisions based on the knowledge they have compiled. The Commission needs to present to the Clinton County Citizens what they believe is right for the County.

**Adjournment:**

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.**

---

Deb Day, Secretary  
Clinton County Government Study Commission

stg