

**Clinton County Government Study Commission Meeting**  
**October 25, 2006**  
**Minutes**

**Call To Order:**

Chairman Dan Harger called the Commission to order at 7:04 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 arrived at 7:05 p.m., Mr. Daniel Harger, Ms. June Houser, Mr. Richard Novosel, Mr. Terry O'Connor, Mr. Ernie Renninger, Mr. Les Robinson and Dr. Robert Wise arrived at 8:10 p.m..

Absent was: Dr. Kathleen McQuaid, and Ms. Coreena Meyer.

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

**Approve Agenda:**

***Ms. Houser 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 October 25, 2006 Agenda as presented was approved unanimously.***

**Meeting Minutes of October 18, 2006:**

***Mr. Hanna made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 18, 2006 as presented. Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took roll call vote whereby the motion to approve the October 18, 2006 minutes as presented was approved unanimously.***

**Reports:**

**Invoice Review:**

Treasurer O'Connor presented an invoice for the recording secretary for \$189.00.

***Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$189.00.***

***Mr. Hanna seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion to approve payment of the invoice totaling \$189.00 was approved unanimously.***

Budget Hearing:

Treasurer O'Connor reported he has not been able to schedule another budget hearing for the 2007 budget. Commissioners Office is stating that they will contact him when ready to meeting with the Study Commission again. He will continue to contact the Commissioners Office. Commission Members felt that the Commission cannot wait much longer for the budget hearing and getting the budget approved for 2007.

Treasurer O'Connor stated he will have a total amount spent by the Study Commission through the end of October at the next meeting. He feels that the Commission will be at the very maximum spending \$35,000 for 2006.

Communication:

Nothing to report at this time.

Old Business:

Nothing to report at this time.

New and Continuing Business:

***Mr. Robinson made the motion that the Study Commission Meetings start at 6:30 p.m. instead of 7:00 p.m. to allow more time at each meeting for completion of the Home Rule Charter. Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.***

Basic Questions for Consideration Relative to the Legislative Branch Under a Home Rule Charter:

***Question 1: Ms. Day made the motion that the Legislative Branch be made up of seven members. Ms. Houser seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.***

***Question 7: The question of how many districts was tabled until the next meeting. The PEL will present two scenario maps of Clinton County; one map will have 4 districts and the second map will have 5 districts.***

***Question 9: Ms. Houser made the motion that the Legislative Body should carry***

**out any redistricting, if necessary, after each US Census. Mr. Renninger seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed as follows: Six Yeas: Ms. Day, Mr. Hanna, Ms. Houser, Mr. Novosel, Mr. Renninger, and Mr. Robinson and Two Nays: Mr. Harger and Mr. O'Connor**

**Question 14: Ms. Houser made the motion that any elected member of the Legislative or Executive Branch be ineligible for office when convicted of a felony. Ms. Day seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.**

**Question 14, 14A, 14B, 14C, 14D: The PEL will develop the same language for both the Executive and Legislative bodies for the Commission to review.**

**Question 15: Ms. Houser made the motion that the Legislative Body will fill any permanent vacancy on the Legislative Body. Ms. Day seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.**

**Question 16: Ms. Houser made the motion that the Legislative Body vacancy will be filled from the same political party as the person he/she succeeds. Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.**

**Question 17: Mr. O'Connor made the motion that the Legislative Body vacancy will be filled until the next election. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.**

**Question 19. A: Ms. Houser made the motion that the Legislative Body will hold regular weekly meetings. Mr. Harger seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed as follows: Seven Yeas Ms. Day, Mr. Hanna, Mr. Harger, Ms. Houser, Mr. Novosel, Mr. O'Connor, and Mr. Renninger and One Nay: Mr. Robinson.**

**Question 20: Ms. Day made the motion that the Legislative Body shall have the general duties, powers and responsibilities enumerated for a legislative body. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed as unanimously.**

**Question 21: Ms. Houser made the motion that the Legislative Body will not be restricted from holding other public or political office. 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, Ms. Houser, Mr. Novosel, Mr. Renninger, Mr. Robinson and Dr. Wise and One Nay: Mr. O'Connor.**

**Question 22 and 23 were tabled.**

**Question 24: Ms. Houser made the motion that the Legislative Body will not receive fringe benefits. Mr. Hanna seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.**

**Question 25: Ms. Houser made the motion that a Legislative Body quorum constitutes a majority of current members. Ms. Day seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.**

**Question 26: Ms. Day made the motion that a majority of the Legislative Body will be required to pass legislation. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.**

**Question 27: Ms. Day made the motion that a majority of the Legislative Body present at a meeting will be required to pass emergency legislation. Ms. Houser seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.**

**Question 28: Ms. Houser made the motion that legislation will take effect after 30 days unless otherwise specified in the legislation. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.**

**Question 29: Ms. Houser made the motion that notice of legislation will be on public display at the County office, on the County website and published in the two local newspapers. Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.**

**Question 31: Mr. O'Connor made the motion that the Legislative Body be called County Legislators. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.**

Specific Questions for Consideration Relative to the Election of Other Officers Under a Home Rule Charter:

**Question 1.A: Ms. Houser made the motion that the Prothonotary will be an elected position. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.**

**Question 1.B: Ms. Houser made the motion that the Register and Recorder will be an elected position. Mr. Hanna seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.**

**Question 1.C: Ms. Houser made the motion that the Coroner will be an elected position. Mr. Hanna seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.**

**Question 1.D: Ms. Houser made the motion that the District Attorney will be an elected position. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.**

**Question 1.E: Ms. Houser made the motion that the Sheriff will be an elected position. Mr. Hanna seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.**

**Question 1.F: Ms. Houser made the motion that the Treasurer will be an elected position. Mr. Hanna seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.**

**Question 1G: Ms. Houser made the motion that the Auditor positions will be eliminated. Ms. Day seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed as follows: Eight Yeas Ms. Day, Mr. Hanna, Mr. Harger, Ms. Houser, Mr. Novosel, Mr. Renninger, Mr. Robinson and Dr. Wise and One Nay: Mr. O'Connor.**

**Question 1.H: Mr. Robinson made the motion that the Jury Commissioner positions will be eliminated. Mr. Hanna seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.**

**Question 2: Ms. Day made the motion that there will be no other elected County Offices. Ms. Houser seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed as follows: Eight Yeas Ms. Day, Mr. Hanna, Mr. Harger, Ms. Houser, Mr. Novosel, Mr. Renninger, Mr. Robinson and Dr. Wise and One Nay: Mr. O'Connor.**

The PEL stated that next week the Commission will look at the size and shape of the Legislative Body and Specific Questions Relative to "Other Provisions." After the Basic Questions for Consideration Relative to Budget and Finance are completed, the PEL will be presenting a draft of the charter up to this point for review by the Commission.

**Ms. Houser made a motion to cancel the November 22, 2006 meeting due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Public Comment:**

The public asked about the need for do many legislators and executive. The

Commission reviewed the checks and balances that will take place between the legislative and the executive branches.

**Adjournment:**

**Ms. Houser made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m. Ms. Day seconded the motion.**

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Deb Day, Secretary  
Clinton County Government Study Commission

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