

**Clinton County Government Study Commission Meeting
September 10, 2007
Minutes**

Call To Order:

Chairman Mike Hanna called the Commission to order at 7:00 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., Ms. June Houser arrived at 7:05 p.m., Dr. Kathleen McQuaid, Mr. Richard Novosel, Mr. Terry O'Connor, Mr. Ernie Renninger, Mr. Les Robinson and Dr. Bob Wise. .

Absent was: Ms. Coreena Meyer

Approve Agenda:

Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the agenda with the moving of Executive Session to No. 5 on the September 10, 2007 agenda. Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion to approve the agenda with the moving of Executive Session to No. 5 on the September 10, 2007 agenda was approved unanimously. (removed any comments on vote count)

Executive Session:

Chairman Hanna stated the Study Commission was going in Executive Session and asked members of the media and public to wait outside for a few minutes.

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Chairman Hanna passed out copies of the opinion of the Board of Commissioner's solicitor regarding bulk mailing privileges.

Dr. McQuaid stated that according to the Study Commission's Bylaws this topic is not allowable for an Executive Session. Chairman Hanna asked the media and public to come back into the meeting.

Chairman Hanna stated that the Study Commission's solicitor has been

contacted to review this issue. The solicitor has **sent** his opinion in writing to the Board of Commissioner. Chairman Hanna will email the opinion **to** the Study Commission when he receives it later this week. Chairman Hanna did state that the solicitor did have a differing opinion from the Board of Commissioner's solicitor and stated the Study Commission should continue with the mailing.

New and Continuing Business:

Mr. Novosel and Mr. Robinson reported on the Study Commission obtaining their own bulk mailing permit. They reported the application fee is \$175 and a printer is \$175. The Postmaster told them that if the Study Commission needed to mail the summaries before the permit was approved, which takes about 2 weeks, the post office will reimburse the cost difference between 1st class and bulk rate mailing. Mr. Novosel stated that a non-profit mailing rate is even cheaper than the 3rd class rate.

Study Commission has investigated mailing the whole Charter which came to an estimated \$200,000 in postage alone. Several Commission members stated that the Clinton County Commissioners would pay for the printing and postage if the minority report was included in the mailing. Chairman Hanna noted that the only correspondence received from the Board of Commissioners is from the solicitor stating that the County will not pay for mailing with no mention of paying for it if the minority report is included. He stated the Study Commission can only move forward on what we have been officially notified of by the Commissioners and their designees.

Mr. Robinson made a motion to start the bulk mailing permit process, print the Charter Summaries and if required, apply for postage reimbursement after the permit is approved. Dr. Wise seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion to start the bulk mailing permit process, print the Charter Summaries and if required, apply for postage reimbursement after the permit is approved was approved by a vote of 8 Yeas and 2 Nays: Dr. McQuaid and Mr. O'Connor.

Public Comment:

Public felt the minority report should be included in the mailing. Extensive discussion on including the minority report and the lawsuit filed by another PA County when their County government refused to mail the charter information to the citizens.

Adjournment:

Ms. Day made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 07:55 p.m. Mr. Novosel seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion to adjourn was approved unanimously. (changed time from 8:55 p.m.)

Deb Day, Secretary
Clinton County Government Study Commission

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