

Clinton County Government Study Commission Meeting
February 21, 2007
Minutes

Call To Order:

Chairman Dan Harger called the Commission to order at 6:32 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 was: Ms. Deb Day, Mr. Mike Hanna, Mr. Dan Harger, Mr. Richard Novosel, Mr. Ernie Renninger and Mr. Les Robinson.

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

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

Approve Agenda:

Ms. Day made a motion to approve the February 21, 2007 agenda with the change of reviewing the Third Draft first and the Summary of Findings Second. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion to approve the February 21, 2007 agenda with the noted change was approved unanimously.

Reports:

Invoice Review:

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Secretary Day presented the following invoices for approval:

\$184.50 - Secretarial Services
\$ 19.28 - Advertising
\$203.78 - Total

Mr. Novosel made a motion to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$203.78. Mr. Hanna seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$203.78 was approved unanimously.

New and Continuing Business:

The PEL reviewed the timetable status of the Draft Charter. They noted for the review of the Third Draft over-scoring indicates a deletion and under-scoring indicates an addition.

Mr. Robinson asked the PEL to explain how the voting for the legislators will take place in the first election in 2010 under the Home Rule Charter. There appears to be a misunderstanding on how this will work. In the primary election the registered voters will vote for 3 at large legislative members. The entire County will have the same set of individuals running for the at large positions and will choose three from that group. Each district will have a different group of individuals running for that particular district's legislative position. The voters will be asked to vote for one individual in that group.

Third Revised Drafts:

Change the Charter to read requiring advertising in one (1) daily newspaper instead of two (2) daily newspapers.

Mr. Robinson made a motion that language be added to the Charter stating that no individual can run for more than one office in the same election. Mr. Novosel seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion was approved unanimously.

All references in the Charter to specific Article and Section Numbers will be removed and refer to as stated in Charter.

Summary of Major Provisions:

- Article III - Other Elective Officials take out the words in () and change it to except for the Coroner.
- Article IV Administrative Branch/Appointed County Executive change to who will be directly.
- Article VI - Tax Limitations - This Article is to be bolded indicating the Study Commission may revisit; need to receive some public input.

Article I - General Powers:

- No changes, corrections or deletions.

Article II - Legislative Branch/County Legislative Body:

- Section 2.05 - Vacancies c. - The word exists be changed to occurred.
- Section 2.05 - Vacancies d. - Take out bolded words.
- Section 2.11 - Meetings - Add language for special meetings to only require the agenda be posted 24 hours in advance.
- Section 2.12 - Powers and Duties c. - End the paragraph in the first sentence after applicable law.
- Section 2.12 - Powers and Duties h., i. and j. - End sentences as follows: h. after employees, i. after governments and j. after property.
- Section 2.14 - Ordinance Requirements a. - End first sentence after first mention of Legislative Body.

Article III - Other Elective Officials:

- Section 3.02 - Qualifications - Add language that the Coroner is required to pass the coroner's course as stated in the County Code.

- Section 3.09 - Powers and Duties of the Controller c. - Add except for independent audit as outlined in previous Article to the end of the first sentence.
- Section 3.09 - Powers and Duties of the Controller d. - Add Treasurer.
- Section 3.09 - Powers and Duties of the Controller g. and h. - Remove.

- Section 3.10 - Powers and Duties of the Coroner c. and d. - Remove.
- Section 3.11 - Powers and Duties of the District Attorney b. and c. - Remove.
- Section 3.12 - Powers and Duties of the Prothonotary/Clerk of Courts c. and d. - Remove.
- Section 3.13 - Powers and Duties of the Register of Wills/Recorder of Deeds b. and c. - Remove.
- Section 3.14 - Powers and Duties of the Sheriff b. and c. - Remove.
- Section 3.15 - Powers and Duties of the Treasurer b. and c. - Remove.

Article IV - Administrative Branch/Appointed County Executive:

- Section 4.01 - Appointed County Executive - Change to read “need not be a.”
- Section 4.06 - Acting Appointed County Executive - Remove language for one of the directors and add an employee of.
- Section 4.07 - Powers and Duties of the Appointed County Executive - Remove chief administrative officer of Clinton County. Add consistent with Charter in the last sentence.
- Section 4.07 - Powers and Duties of the Appointed County Executive bb. - Move “in the absence of a quorum of the Legislative Body to the beginning of the sentence.
- Section 4.08 - Executive Appointments b. - Add language for the Solicitor and Public Defender to devote time necessary to fulfill the duties of their office.
- Section 4.08 - Executive Appointments c. - Remove the last sentence.

Article V - Budget and Finance:

- Section 5.03 - Budget Message and Format - Add budgetary functions. Examples of budgetary functions are debt payment and benefits.

Article VI - Tax Limitation Provisions:

- Need public input before finalized.

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Article VII - Administrative Code:

- PEL will be completing an organizational chart.
- Section 7.09 - Purchasing Procedures a. - Move the beginning part of the sentence to the end of the sentence.

Article VIII - Personnel Code:

- Section 8.12 - Political Activity - Mr. Hanna will review for the Study Commission and report back at the next meeting.
- Section 8.13 - Personnel Appeals Board f. - Reinstate paragraph.

Article IX - Accountability, Conduct and Ethics:

- Ms. Day is looking into the County's definition of immediate family; should have a response by the next meeting.

Article X - Authorities, Boards and Commissions:

- Section 10.03 - Appointments to Authorities/Vacancies 1. - Change the language to read in accordance with Authority Law.
- Section 10.04 - Board of Tax Assessment Appeals e. - Reinstate paragraph.

Article XI - Initiative and Referendum:

- Section 11.04 - Referendum - Remove authorizing the County's initial tax anticipation note for the budget year and refunding of County obligations.
- Change language to read application will be granted immediately if minimum signature requirement is met.

Article XII - Recall:

- Change language to read application will be granted immediately if minimum signature requirement is met.

Article XIII - General/Miscellaneous Provisions:

- No changes, corrections or deletions.

Article XIV - Transitional Provisions:

- No changes, corrections or deletions.

Appendix:

Use numbers to signify districts.

The PEL will have the fourth draft ready for the next meeting. The Commission needs to complete the Summary Findings.

Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2007:

Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 7, 2007 as presented. Mr. Hanna seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took roll call vote whereby the motion to approve the February 7, 2007 minutes was approved unanimously.

Communication:

Resignation:

Mr. Harger submitted his resignation as Chairman of the Clinton County Study Commission effective immediately. Mr. Harger is running for County Commissioner and feels he should not be the Chairman of this Commission.

Mr. Robinson made a motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Harger as Chairman of the Commission and accepting Mr. Hanna as Chairman of the Commission. Mr. Renninger seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion was approved unanimously.

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Mr. Robinson suggested that the Commission hold the remainder of their meetings at the Clinton County Courthouse as well as the special public meeting. He will look into the availability of the Courthouse.

The Commission decided on a tentative public meeting schedule as follows:

- March 14, 2007 Clinton County Courthouse 7:00 p.m..

- March 21, 2007 location to be announced in Renovo 7:00 p.m.
- March 28, 2007 location to be announced in Sugar Valley 7:00 p.m.

Bylaws:

Mr. Robinson read his Bylaws Amendment proposal to the Commission Members regarding proxy/absentee voting on the final vote for the Charter. This amendment proposal will be discussed at the next meeting.

Public Comment:

Concern was expressed over the legislative body powers and executive body powers. There was concern expressed over determining a quorum and the process when there is a tie vote. The Commission noted that these issues are addressed in the Administrative Code and Transitional Committee.

It was also noted that if one of the three incumbent Commissioners resigns their position when the Charter takes effect; that position will not be filled.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 09:37 p.m.

Deb Day, Secretary
Clinton County Government Study Commission

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