

Clinton County Government Study Commission Meeting
January 3, 2007
Minutes

Call To Order:

Chairman Dan Harger 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, Mr. Richard Novosel, Mr. Terry O'Connor arrived at 7:15 p.m., Mr. Ernie Renninger, and Mr. Les Robinson arrived at 7:30 p.m.

Absent was: Ms. June Houser, Dr. Kathleen McQuaid, Ms. Coreena Meyer and Dr. Bob Wise.

Pennsylvania Economy League representative present was Mr. Charles Watters.

Meeting Time Change:

The Study Commission discussed the various options for changing the start time of the meetings. Ms. Day read Dr. McQuaid's explanation that she teaches to 6:20 p.m. on Wednesdays and cannot come earlier but could on Tuesday and Thursday. Other members stated why they could not attend on other days.

Mr. Renninger made a motion to move the start time of the Study Commission Meetings to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. Ms. Day seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion to move the start time of the Study Commission Meetings to 6:30 p.m. was approved unanimously.

Approve Agenda:

Mr. Renninger made a motion to approve the January 03, 2007 agenda as presented. Mr. Hanna seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion to approve the January 03, 2007 agenda was approved unanimously.

New and Continuing Business:

Proforma Article on Transitional Provisions:

Ms. Day made a motion to accept Sections .01, .02, .03, .04, .05 a, b, and c, .06 a, b, c, d, f, g, h, and i, .07 a, b, and c, .08, .09, .10, .11 b, and c as written and Section .06 e. change to incumbent County Commissioners shall serve as additional members of the County's Legislative Body, and Section .11 a add the date of January 15, 2008 as the date of the first meeting of the Transition Committee. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion.

After discussion, Ms. Day amended the above to motion to remove Section .06 e. change to incumbent County Commissioners shall serve as additional members of the County's Legislative Body from this motion. Mr. Hanna seconded the amended motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the amended motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Robinson made a motion to change Section .06 e. to incumbent County Commissioners shall serve as additional members of the County's Legislative Body. Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed as follows: Five Yeas: Ms. Day, Mr. Harger, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Renninger, and Mr. Robinson and Two Nays: Mr. Hanna and Mr. Novosel.

Mr. Renninger made a motion to accept the wording on the Treasurer or an alternate arrangement collecting the County taxes as written. Mr. Novosel seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.

The Study Commission agreed that a section regarding the Controller needs to be created.

Proforma Article on General Powers:

Mr. O'Connor made a motion to accept Sections .01 through .06 as written. Mr. Hanna seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.

Proforma Article on the Administrative Code:

Mr. O'Connor made a motion to table this Article to give the Study Commission more time to evaluate the contents. Mr. Novosel seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.

First Revised Draft Article - Budget and Finance:

Mr. O'Connor made a motion for Section .06 - Approval of the Budgets, to add 2 1/2% as the guideline for requiring an additional public hearing when an amendment change before adoption are made to a proposed budget subsequent to the required public hearing. Mr. Novosel seconded the motion. *Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed as follows: Four Yeas: Mr. Hanna, Mr. Novosel, Mr. Renninger, and Mr. Robinson and Three Nays: Ms. Day, Mr. Harger, and Mr. O'Connor.*

Mr. O'Connor made a motion for Section .08 c. and e. - Changes in the Budget, to change the percentage that the Appointed County Executive may transfer within a department to not exceed a cumulative total of 5% of the total original budget. Mr. Hanna seconded the motion. *Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Robinson made a motion for Section .08 d. - Changes in the Budget, to add the percentage the Appointed County Executive may transfer from one department to another department to not exceed a cumulative total of 1 1/2% of the total original budget. Ms. Day seconded the motion. *Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Robinson made a motion to accept Sections .01, .02, .03, .04, .05, .07, .08 b., .09, .10, .11, .12, .13, and .14 as written, Section .08 Changes in the Budget a. and f. to read majority plus one of the current Legislative Body to amend budgets, and Section .08 Changes in the Budget g. remove the limitations on real estate tax rates (millages) set forth in this Charter. Ms. Day seconded the motion. *Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.*

First Revised Draft Article - Recall:

Ms. Day made a motion to accept Sections .01, .02 a. through i., .03 a. through e. as written. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. *Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.*

The PEL asked the Commission to read for review at the next meeting:

1. First Revised Draft - Article XII- General/Miscellaneous Provisions

The PEL also the 2006-07 Calendar for Consideration and the Status of Drafts of Articles.

The Study Commission stated the issue of salaries will need to be address soon. Ms. Day and Mr. Novosel are writing a summary regarding the salaries throughout the State.

Meeting Minutes of December 20, 2006:

Mr. Hanna made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of December 20, 2006 as presented. Mr. Novosel seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took roll call vote whereby the motion to approve the December 20, 2006 minutes was approved unanimously.

Reports:

Invoice Review:

There were no invoices for review.

Public Comment:

The public asked why the Commission moved to an appointment Executive rather than an elected Executive. They felt an elected Executive gave more checks and balances.

The public asked about the make-up of the Transitional Committee being Commission members, County Commissioners and some members of the public.

The public stated how important a synopsis of the Charter and reasons as to why the certain decisions that were made would make the County government better.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 09:50 p.m.

Deb Day, Secretary
Clinton County Government Study Commission

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