

**Clinton County Government Study Commission Meeting**  
**October 11, 2006**  
**Minutes**

**Call To Order:**

Chairman Dan Harger called the Commission to order at 7:05 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, Mr. Daniel Harger, Dr. Kathleen McQuaid, Mr. Richard Novosel, Mr. Terry O'Connor, Mr. Ernie Renninger, Mr. Les Robinson and Dr. Robert Wise arrived at 7:08 p.m..

Absent was: Ms. June House and Ms. Coreena Meyer.

Pennsylvania Economy League representatives present were Mr. Charles Watters and Mr. Joe Boyle.

**Approve Agenda:**

***Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion to approve the October 11, 2006 Agenda as presented was approved unanimously.***

**Meeting Minutes of October 4, 2006:**

***Mr. Novosel made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 4, 2006 as presented. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took roll call vote whereby the motion to approve the October 4, 2006 minutes as presented was approved unanimously.***

**Reports:**

**Invoice Review:**

Treasurer O'Connor presented an invoice for \$35.70 for cassette tapes from a new vendor. The Commission discussed the cost of the new vendor and requested that the cost be compared to the previous vendor. Mr. Robinson donated \$25.60 to pay for cassette tapes.

**Ms. Day made a motion to accept the donation of \$25.60 and look into the costs of the cassette tapes and return of cassette tapes to the vendor. Mr. Renninger seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion to accept the donation of \$25.60 and look into the costs of the cassette tapes and return of cassette tapes to the vendor was approved by a vote of seven Yeas: Ms. Day, Mr. Hanna, Mr. Harger, Mr. Novosel, Mr. Renninger, Mr. Robinson and Dr. Wise, one Nay: Mr. O'Connor, and one non-participation: Dr. McQuaid.**

**Budget Hearing:**

Treasurer O'Connor reported on the budget hearing with the Clinton County Commissioners held on October 6, 006. The County Commissioners neither approved nor disapproved the budget but did ask for a 10% reduction as all other departments were asked to do. Treasurer O'Connor stated told them he felt the Study Commission could finish its task with a \$45,000.00 budget instead of the \$50,000.00 requested for 2007. The County Commissioners stated they felt the whole study should cost a total of \$50,000.00. Secretary Day who also attended the budget hearing felt the whole tone of the hearing with the County Commissioners was very poor.

Treasurer O'Connor reviewed the line items where he felt reductions could be made in the budget which included legal services, website maintenance fees and miscellaneous items. He stated that Clinton County government is required to fund the Study Commission to completion of the Study Commission's task. He feels the County Commissioners are trying to hold the Study Commission hostage.

**Treasurer O'Connor made a motion to that the Study Commission reapproach the County Commissioners with a \$45, 000.00 2007 budget which includes the requested 10% reduction. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion to reapproach the County Commissioners with a \$45, 000.00 2007 budget which includes the requested 10% reduction was approved unanimously.**

Treasurer O'Connor will contact the County Commissioner to set up another budget hearing with them for the 2007 budget.

**Communication:**

Nothing to report at this time.

**Old Business:**

Nothing to report at this time.

## **New and Continuing Business:**

### **Follow-Up Questions for Consideration Relative to the Executive Branch of Government Under a Home Rule Charter:**

These are the questions that the Study Commission deferred or did not reach at a previous meeting relative to the County Executive.

***Question 1: Mr. O'Connor made the motion that the County Executive's term of office should be 4 years in length. Ms. Day seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed as follows: Five Yeas: Ms. Day, Mr. Hanna, Dr. McQuaid, Mr. Novosel, and Mr. O'Connor, three Nays: Mr. Harger, Mr. Renninger and Mr. Robinson and Dr. Wise is not ready to make this decision.***

***Question 2: Mr. O'Connor made the motion that the County Executive's total terms of office be limited to 2 consecutive terms. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion failed as follows: One Yea: Mr. O'Connor and eight Yeas: Ms. Day, Mr. Hanna, Mr. Harger, Dr. McQuaid, Mr. Novosel, Mr. Renninger, Mr. Robinson and Dr. Wise.***

***Question 2: Mr. Hanna made the motion that the County Executive has no term limits. Mr. Renninger seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed as follows: Seven Yeas: Ms. Day, Mr. Hanna, Mr. Harger, Dr. McQuaid, Mr. Novosel, Mr. Renninger, and Dr. Wise, one Nay: Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Robinson was unavailable.***

***Question 3 was deferred.***

***Question 4: Ms. Day made the motion that a vacancy in the County Executive position be filled until the next municipal election. Mr. Renninger seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.***

***Question 5A: Ms. Day made the motion that the County Executive will forfeit his/her office if he/she moves from the County or now longer meets any other qualification prescribed by applicable State law or by this Charter. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.***

***Question 5, 5B and 5D: Mr. O'Connor made the motion that Questions 5, 5B and 5D be tabled until the PEL writes recommendations on removal of the County Executive from his/her office in the strongest language legally possible. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.***

**Question 5C: Mr. Novosel made the motion that the County Executive will forfeit his/her office if he/she is convicted of misbehavior in office or of any infamous crime or if he/she violates specific provisions of the Charter. Mr. Renninger seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.**

Several Study Commission members requested that all Commission Members put in writing their reasons for choosing to write a home rule charter.

The PEL gave the members Basic Questions for Consideration Relative to the Legislative Branch of Government Under a Home Rule Charter. These questions will be discussed at the next meeting.

**Public Comment:**

Nothing to report at this time.

**Adjournment:**

**Ms. Day made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. Dr. McQuaid seconded the motion.**

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Deb Day, Secretary  
Clinton County Government Study Commission

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