

**Cecil County Charter Board
Meeting Minutes**

January 4, 2010

PRESENT: Joyce Bowlsbey, Dan Schneckenburger, Henry Burden, Robert Gell, Harland Graef, Chris Ann Szep, Ed Cole, and Barry Montgomery, Executive Office Administrator Vicky Rinkerman, and Consultant Victor Tervala, Esquire via phone conference.

ABSENT: Ross Cameron

OPEN SESSION called to order at 6:00 p.m.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Approval of Minutes – December 7, 2009 – Minutes were not available for approval.

Old Business

Review of Draft Charter version 11

Staggered Terms of Office – Mr. Tervala suggested that the Board receive an opinion from the Attorney General on the legality of staggered terms for the Council. Staggered terms are written in the Election provisions for the Commissioners, and he wants to ensure it is legal in the charter.

Delegate Rudolph offered to obtain any legal opinions from the Attorney General as needed. Chair Bowlsbey approved the letter written by Mr. Tervala requesting an opinion on the matter.

Solicitation of Funds for Charter – Discussion ensued regarding the Friends of Charter group and the process required for soliciting donations in support of Charter government.

Meetings – Discussion ensued regarding the schedule for presentations. Various groups will be asking direct questions pertaining to how the charter would change their interaction with the County. Charter Board members need to anticipate issues in advance if possible before making the presentations. Mr. Burden volunteered to contact various groups to determine their issues that they would like to discuss at the meeting. The Board agreed to proceed to take a team approach to the presentations, and all members are satisfied with the draft document.

Draft of Charter Government presentation – Discussion ensued regarding the draft presentation.

Questions on draft Charter – call placed to Mr. Tervala – The tax rate is part of the budget process and it would be addressed through the provisions in the Charter.

Collective bargaining – The Charter would not affect collective bargaining groups in the County. The Fraternal Order of Police has requested the General Assembly to place a question on the ballot to allow collective bargaining with binding arbitration for Sheriff Deputies. The General Assembly is the only entity that can authorize a binding referendum.

Recall and impeachment – The Charter cannot create a recall, but may refer to impeachment procedures.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Mr. Montgomery, second by Mr. Cole, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Charter Board is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the Perryville room of the County Administration Building, 200 Chesapeake Blvd., Elkton.

Approved:

Joyce Bowsbey, Chair

Attest:

Vicky Rinkerman, Exec. Office Administrator