

**Cecil County Charter Board
Worksession Meeting Minutes**

December 7, 2009

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

ABSENT: Ross Cameron

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

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Approval of Minutes – November 23, 2009 – On motion by Mr. Gell, second by Mr. Graef, the Board approved the minutes of the November 23, 2009 meeting as presented. Mr. Burden abstained from voting.

Old Business

Review of 2010 Charter draft – Version 10

The Board members reviewed Article 7 Transitional Provisions of the draft Charter.

Discussion ensued regarding voting by district for Council members. The Board concurred that they will seek public input on this section.

Discussion ensued regarding the salary for the County Executive position. The agreed upon salary of \$98,000 is between the salary of the Harford County and Dorchester County positions.

Discussion ensued regarding Council members being permitted to hold another government position and possible conflict of interest issues.

Tax Cap

Discussion ensued regarding adding a provision for a tax cap in the Charter. Examples were discussed of how tax caps have impacted other jurisdictions. The Charter cannot set the tax rate for the County, and property assessments are linked to the constant yield tax rate. The County tax rate is voted on annually.

Treasurer Howard stated that the State is in charge of property assessments. Adding a tax cap to the Charter may prohibit the county from responding to the financial needs to provide services.

ACTION: The Board concurred not to add a provision for tax caps to the Charter.

Discussion ensued regarding a recall for county officials, which is prohibited by law.

Next Meeting: On motion by Mr. Burden, second by Mr. Graef, the Board unanimously agreed to cancel the December 21, 2009 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT - On motion by Mr. Montgomery, second by Mr. Graef, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

The next meeting of the Charter Board is scheduled for Monday, January 4, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the Perryville Room of the Cecil County Administration Building.

Approved:

Joyce Bowsbey, Chair

Attest:

Vicky Rinkerman, Exec. Office Administrator