

**Cecil County Charter Board  
Meeting Minutes**

**March 8, 2010**

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

**ABSENT:** Henry Burden

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

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

**Approval of Minutes** – January 19, 2010 and February 2, 2010 meeting minutes.

**ACTION:** On motion by Ms. Szep, second by Mr. Graef, the minutes of the January 19, 2010 and February 2, 2010 meetings were approved as presented.

**Discussion on timeframe adjustment as per Victor Tervalá** – Mr. Schneckenburger stated that he feels the Board needs to be able to explain the time line for adopting charter. Discussion ensued regarding the options provided by Mr. Tervalá, and the date that must be changed.

The Board contacted Mr. Tervalá via phone regarding the dates when a prospective county executive can file to run for office. This is an “off” cycle election date based on the staggered terms of office. The current date in the Charter is July 4, 2012 for the 2012 November election. The date must be pushed back due to the primary election date, and the last day to file for office is 10 weeks or 70 days before the primary.

Mr. Tervalá stated that once the charter is adopted, it cannot be removed unless the voters want to remove it. The Board previously agreed to have charter take effect when the first county executive is elected to office. Discussion ensued regarding the control the Delegation has over local laws through the 2011 legislative session. Discussion ensued regarding permitting the County Commissioners to operate as the County Council until the 2012 election. He referred to a court case that permitted a council to make adjustments in terms of government changes; however, the Attorney General may come back with the opinion that the county executive cannot be elected until the 2014 election, which is the normal election cycle. He feels that the public understands the charter timeline is based on the election cycle.

Chair Bowlsbey stated that she has not received a response from the Attorney General and there are no comments on their website.

**ACTION:** The Board concurred to change that the date when the county executive can file for office to January 1, 2011; however, charter government still goes into effect December 2012 with the election of the first county executive.

Discussion ensued regarding the Friends for Charter group and their proposed marketing strategy.

Chair Bowlsbey requested that Board members attend the public forums if they are available, and a table will be set up in front of the room for members. Discussion ensued regarding the format for the public forums.

Discussion ensued support for the charter from members of the Delegation. Discussion ensued regarding public opposition by Delegation members to the charter. The Board concurred that their intent is to rise above the political environment and party affiliation to garner support for charter government. Mr. Montgomery stated that he feels that the Board can field and handle objections from any members of the Delegation.

Discussion ensued regarding a request to schedule a debate on the various forms of county government. The Board concurred that a debate on the forms of government is not necessary at this time since the charter question will be on the November ballot. Chair Bowsbey stated that she would follow up with Economic Development Director Thompson on the government debate request, and Mr. Gell will follow up with the town mayors.

Next meeting Monday, March 15, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

**Adjournment**

ACTION: On motion by Mr. Graef, second by Mr. Cole, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

The next meeting of the Charter Board is scheduled for Monday, March 15, 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