

**Cecil County Charter Board
Meeting Minutes**

April 12, 2010

PRESENT: Joyce Bowsbey, Henry Burden, Harland Graef, and Barry Montgomery, Executive Office Administrator Vicky Rinkerman, and Consultant Victor Tervalá, Esquire via phone conference.

ABSENT: Dan Schneckenburger, Ed Cole, Bob Gell, Chris Ann Szep, and Ross Cameron

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

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Approval of Minutes – March 8, 2010 meeting minutes.

ACTION: Approval of minutes postponed until next meeting.

Fraternal Order of Police Collective Bargaining – The Board received information that under Charter, the Council could approve collective bargaining without binding or non-binding arbitration for the FOP.

Remarks from Cecil Land Use Alliance (CLUA) – The Board received a copy of the comments from the CLUA group regarding Charter government. Mr. Burden stated that the Board has discussed at length the topics brought forward by the organization.

Discussion on Redistricting provision in Charter Section 214 – Discussion ensued regarding the provision for the redistricting plan. A question was raised pertaining to clarifying a procedure in the event the Council does not approve the plan. Mr. Tervalá stated that requiring a vote by the Council that would send the plan back to the redistricting committee could prolong the process for creating new voting districts. Ultimately, the redistricting plan must be approved by the Council, and they have the authority to revise the plan that is submitted by the redistricting committee.

Age Limit on County Executive and Council members – Discussion ensued regarding adding an age requirement to the charter. Mr. Burden stated that the person must be a registered voter. Mr. Graef stated that the majority of charters have an age requirement. Mr. Tervalá stated that this is a policy decision of the Charter Board.

Residency Requirement for County Executive – Discussion ensued regarding adding a requirement that the Executive must reside in the County prior to being elected to the office. Mr. Graef stated that the majority of other charters have a residency requirement prior to election. Mr. Tervalá stated that this is a policy decision of the Charter Board; however, the limit would be one to two years prior to running for the office.

Residency Requirement for Finance Director – Discussion ensued regarding changing the residency requirement for the Finance Director. Mr. Tervalá stated that this is a policy decision of the Charter Board.

Early voting – Discussion ensued regarding submission of the Charter with regard to early voting. Mr. Tervalá stated that the early voting requirement has no impact on the submission of the Charter to the Board of County Commissioners. The ballot question is usually written by the County Attorney, however, the Charter Board can submit an example of the question.

Charter information – Information on the Charter will be provided to Union Hospital employees and the Teacher’s Association members via their website.

Revision to add US Constitution to the Preamble – Discussion ensued regarding the request to add the “U. S. Constitution” to the Preamble section of the Charter. Mr. Tervalo stated that the County is not a body politic under the U.S. Constitution, but an entity under State government.

Attorney General letter – Mr. Tervalo stated that he has requested an opinion regarding the election of the County Executive with regard to the quadrennial election standard, which would be in the year 2014.

Friends for Charter update – Discussion ensued regarding billboard advertising. Mr. Montgomery offered the use of one of his billboards for advertising. The approximate costs of advertising on the billboard is \$350 to \$400 for the graphics.

Adjournment

On motion by Mr. Graef, second by Mr. Burden, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Charter Board is scheduled for Monday, May 3, 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