

**Concord Township
Government Study Commission (GSC)
MINUTES OF MEETING OF JANUARY 29, 2015**

I. CALL TO ORDER.

The meeting was called to order by GSC Chairman James Gray at 7:03 PM on January 29, 2015, at the Concord Township Municipal Building. The following GSC members were present: James Gray, Rosemary Fiumara, Diane Bohr, Joshua Twersky, Matthew Houtmann, and Robert Tribit. Absent: Andrew Briner. Also present: GSC Solicitor Michael Maddren and Concord Township Supervisor John Gillespie.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS.

None.

IV. OLD BUSINESS.

1. GSC Solicitor Mike Maddren confirmed that, as a result of the Petition to Intervene being denied by the PA Supreme Court on 12/31/14, the role of the GSC in that litigation is concluded.
2. Motion by R. Fiumara to approve the Minutes of January 8, 2015 meeting; seconded by J. Twersky. A voice vote was called for and Commission Members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

V. NEW BUSINESS.

1. **Presentation by Marita Kelley, Local Government Policy Manager, Governor's Center for Local Government Services, Department of Community and Economic Development.**

Ms. Kelley introduced herself and recited her qualifications, citing her many decades of experience in various governmental agencies. She provided a thorough, informative and educational 70-minute lecture, which was accompanied by a PowerPoint

presentation on Home Rule Charter basics and the various optional forms of government. The GSC handouts of that PowerPoint presentation are attached.

During and following the presentation, Ms. Kelley fielded numerous questions and comments from GSC members.

2. Agenda Development.

R. Tribit contacted Jerry Cross of the PA Economy League, Luzerne County, who provided him with numerous documents and might be available to assist/consult if the GSC decides on a Home Rule Charter for Concord Township.

3. Public Outreach Update

M. Houtman is still gathering contact information for the schools, churches, and community groups, including Maris Grove, Fox Hill Farm, The Riviera at Concord, and other larger homeowner associations.

R. Tribit and J. Twersky will address the residents of Maris Grove at Maris Grove on February 23.

R. Tribit, J. Gray and R. Fiumara volunteered to address the residents of Fox Hill Farm.

J. Gray and J. Twersky will address the Rotary in late February.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT.

John Schoenberger, Maris Grove, expressed the importance of educating Township citizens and keeping them apprised of the GSC undertakings.

Dan Levin, 4 Swayne Court, had questions and made comments about the Supreme Court litigation.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS.

M. Houtmann and J. Gray met with Bruce Clark at Middletown Township, and secured a copy of the Report of the Middletown Township GSC dated March 1, 1975. All GSC members were given a copy of the report.

R. Tribit and J. Twersky met with the Cheltenham Township Manager, Bryan Havir, on January 21 and were given copies of that Home Rule Charter. Cheltenham Township went from a First Class Township to a Home Rule Charter in 1976. Copies of the Cheltenham Charter, with commentary provided by the Charter Commission, will be given to all GSC members.

VII. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to discuss, J. Twersky made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM, seconded by R. Fiumara. A voice vote was called for and Commission Members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane S. Bohr, Secretary
Concord Township
Government Study Commission

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 5, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.