

BEFORE THE TOWNSHIP OF CONCORD  
GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMISSION  
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

- - -

IN RE: Public Comment  
Concord Township Form of Government

- - -

Public hearing in the above matter held pursuant to notice on Wednesday, May 13, 2015, at the Concord Township Municipal Building, 43 Thornton Road, Glen Mills, Pennsylvania, commencing at 7:00 p.m., before Norma Gerrity, Registered Professional Reporter.

- - -

BEFORE:

JAMES D. GRAY, Chairman  
DIANE S. BOHR  
ANDREW BRINER  
ROSEMARY FIUMARA  
MATTHEW R. HOUTMANN  
ROBERT W. TRIBIT  
JOSHUA TWERSKY

APPEARANCES: MICHAEL MADDREN, ESQUIRE,  
Solicitor for the Commission

- - -

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I N D E XQUESTIONS AND COMMENTSPAGE

Pennie Scott	5
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1           THE CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, I'd  
2           like to call this meeting to order, the  
3           Government Study Commission of Concord  
4           Township public hearing, May 13th. Please  
5           rise and Pledge Allegiance.

6                           - - -

7                           (Pledge of Allegiance)

8                           - - -

9           THE CHAIRMAN: Diane, do the roll call.

10          MS. BOHR: Roll call, James Gray.

11          MR. GRAY: Here.

12          MS. BOHR: Rosemary Fiumara.

13          MS. FIUMARA: Here.

14          MS. BOHR: Josh Twersky.

15          MR. TWERSKY: Here.

16          MS. BOHR: Diane Bohr. Here.

17          MS. BOHR: Andrew Briner.

18          MR. BRINER: Here.

19          MS. BOHR: Matt Houtmann.

20          MR. HOUTMANN: Here.

21          MS. BOHR: Robert Tribit.

22          MR. TRIBIT: Here.

23          THE CHAIRMAN: The public hearing is a  
24          little different tonight than those in the

1 past. First of all, we have a court reporter  
2 here, Norma, taking down, recording all of  
3 the conversation and public comments.

4 We're going to have some ground rules  
5 for the hearing. Mike Maddren is going to go  
6 over that for us.

7 MR. MADDREN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
8 As the Chairman mentioned, we are here for a  
9 public hearing pursuant to the Pennsylvania's  
10 Home Rule Charter and Optional Plans Law.

11 The hearing was advertised in accordance  
12 with that law and the Sunshine Act, and we'll  
13 provide Norma with a copy of the proof of  
14 publication and make that part of the record.

15 The purpose of tonight is to hear from  
16 the residents, to hear your thoughts on  
17 whether the township should create a Home  
18 Rule Charter, choose one of Pennsylvania's  
19 Optional Plans, or do nothing, remain a  
20 Township of the Second Class.

21 Those of you who were here last week had  
22 the opportunity to hear the commission's  
23 thoughts on those issues, and tonight's the  
24 opportunity for the public to provide the

1 commission with thoughts on those issues.

2 There may be a number of people speaking  
3 this evening, so we're going to ask that  
4 folks keep their comments on point on those  
5 issues and to five minutes, if possible.

6 I think that's basically all we have.  
7 We can get this evening rolling, Mr.  
8 Chairman.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. There's a  
10 microphone up front, so anyone that's  
11 offering public comment, come up to the  
12 microphone and state your name, your address,  
13 then go ahead and address your comments. So  
14 the microphone is open to anyone who would  
15 like to make a comment.

16 MS. SCOTT: Hi. My name is Pennie  
17 Scott, 48 Willits Way. This is the first  
18 time I have been to one of these meetings. I  
19 haven't been to any of these meetings, so I  
20 haven't heard of this discussion.

21 But I did see on the agenda that you  
22 were asking for public comment, and I  
23 wondered if you had given a presentation to  
24 the group of your findings so far or will

1           that happen, because I don't have an opinion  
2           since I don't know what is involved in each  
3           of those choices. Maybe I might have missed  
4           the meeting where you did present that.

5           MR. MADDREN: Mr. Chairman, if I may,  
6           the minutes of all the meetings are available  
7           on the township's website, and the commission  
8           has its own website, so you can see the  
9           presentations. I think the materials from  
10          all of the presentations are up there as  
11          well.

12          They've had various experts in the  
13          fields of the various forms of government  
14          come in and give presentations so that they  
15          could get some background on the best form of  
16          government.

17          They've also had some discussion with  
18          the officials of Concord Township so that  
19          they could understand how the township itself  
20          operates.

21          At this point, there is no decision  
22          made, so there is no report being made. When  
23          they do make a decision, if it's to stay, an  
24          optional plan -- or stay a Second Class

1 Township or go to an optional plan, they have  
2 to do that by August 4th, and a report would  
3 be issued at that time.

4 If they decide to go with Home Rule  
5 Charter, a report is required concurrent with  
6 the presentation of a Home Rule Charter.  
7 They would have an additional nine months to  
8 draft that charter.

9 If it's a form of government that  
10 includes voting by regions, by precincts or,  
11 I'm sorry, wards rather, representation by  
12 region, not voting by region, then they have  
13 an additional two months to --

14 MS. SCOTT: And when you say they, the  
15 supervisors?

16 MR. MADDREN: The commissioners, not the  
17 supervisors.

18 MS. SCOTT: Okay. So August 4th is the  
19 first date?

20 MR. MADDREN: August 4th is the first  
21 date that any vote would occur.

22 MS. SCOTT: On the part of this group?

23 MR. MADDREN: On the part of the  
24 commission. If the commission votes to stay

1 the same, the commission is done. Things  
2 move on. If the commission votes, recommends  
3 an optional plan, that would go to a  
4 referendum.

5 MS. SCOTT: If I do have comments, and I  
6 obviously haven't read the information  
7 online, which I will do, how could I make my  
8 comments known?

9 Can I do that through e-mail?

10 MR. MADDREN: You can. I believe that  
11 there's a link on the website. Each of the  
12 commissioners has an e-mail address that's  
13 @Concord GSC.org, the first initial, last  
14 name @Concord GSC.org.

15 MS. SCOTT: Okay. Thank you.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Check on the website. It  
17 will have meeting dates and times on there.  
18 We certainly welcome you to come to one of  
19 our meetings.

20 MS. SCOTT: I will do that. I was here  
21 for a meeting. I just concluded, so I  
22 thought I'd stop in. I should have done my  
23 homework. Thank you.

24 MR. MULHOLLAND: Good evening. Harry

1 Mulholland, M-U-L-H-O-L-L-A-N-D, 309 Millers  
2 Run, Glen Mills.

3 I would like to see a First Class  
4 Township for several reasons. One would be  
5 that we would have representatives from each  
6 ward and that it would not be just a single  
7 five-man group of people.

8 These people would be picked in the ward  
9 by whoever's in the ward and make it so that  
10 it's well representative of Concord Township.

11 The other thing is, I realize that First  
12 Class would have a mayor or somebody that was  
13 head of the group, and he would be more  
14 responsible for the township if he was a  
15 solid member of the township for quite a  
16 while.

17 These are my points. I think we need to  
18 do something to make it more representative  
19 of the whole township. Thank you.

20 MS. MUELLER: My name is Ann Mueller,  
21 and I'm at 850 Shavertown Road, Boothwyn,  
22 Pennsylvania.

23 The thing that I would really like the  
24 most from all of you is to really be able to

1 bring back kind of a trust and confidence  
2 that we have in the leadership for this  
3 township, because we've had a number of  
4 situations over the last couple, three years,  
5 that really caused such division.

6 The worries that I have is a lot of the  
7 division is over people and different  
8 property interests not really trusting the  
9 process, not feeling listened to.

10 I think we have real diversity issues in  
11 our township. I think that we have gotten a  
12 really rich mix of cultural differences that  
13 have moved into this township.

14 They make us all better for what they  
15 bring to it, but I don't know that they're  
16 really fully represented in what we do.

17 So to me I think the big issues that we  
18 have to address are things about trust. I  
19 think that comes through a more transparent  
20 process.

21 I think people need to feel represented,  
22 so I would certainly echo the other comments  
23 that I've heard this evening.

24 I've always been taught you're not

1 allowed to come unless you can offer some  
2 solutions.

3 I think one of the things that I think  
4 would help with trust would be something that  
5 would get us back to something that I would  
6 call more of a balance of power and influence  
7 within the township.

8 So to me what that would mean is that  
9 there's a better and a clear understanding of  
10 all of the processes.

11 I haven't been all that active in the  
12 township, but what you learn is a lot of it  
13 starts with the zoning committee, and then it  
14 goes to the planning committee, and then it  
15 goes to the supervisors.

16 It would be helpful if those processes  
17 were understood and they really valued what  
18 people brought to them, because people are  
19 bringing their most sincere requests to their  
20 local government, and they're hoping to be  
21 heard and listened to and have someone  
22 respond to it.

23 And if I think back over the history in  
24 this township over a number of years, I think

1           that we have pretty much -- it has felt, if  
2           I'm just candid, it has felt like we've kind  
3           of rubber stamped a lot of our planning  
4           process. I don't think we've all understood  
5           the zoning process.

6                     And so it all ends up at the supervisors  
7           board for them to kind of sort this big mess  
8           out and with a lot of bad feelings that I  
9           think some education and more involvement  
10          would help.

11                    So I think there's something about  
12          increasing some of the responsibilities for  
13          planning and zoning maybe and so it's not  
14          always just the supervisors looking like they  
15          get to make the last call and instead it's  
16          had a lot of discussion and input to it. So  
17          that would be one of them.

18                    I think the planning committee, it  
19          always feels like, they always end having to  
20          say it's just a recommendation, no one has to  
21          listen to what we say, we've done our best,  
22          here's the results, but it always passes  
23          through. We never say, wow, maybe we should  
24          stop and look at this or do some more work.

1           And so I think the other place that  
2           we've actually lost some credibility is our  
3           use of our consultants, I guess they're  
4           Pennonni and Comitta are the two that I always  
5           hear, and those are the ones that we look to  
6           to make too many of the big calls when there  
7           ought to be someone who's on the board who  
8           really knows technically what they're  
9           recommending and how to interpret that. So  
10          that's my balance of power.

11          I think the next place that I would talk  
12          about is the voice of the people. And I was  
13          one of the people that went out and was asked  
14          to collect names and talk to people within  
15          the little community area that I live in.

16          I live down in the south part of the  
17          township, so I live down near Beaver Valley  
18          and the developments that are down there, and  
19          I talked to a lot of people, and many of them  
20          were of a diverse background.

21          Many of them don't feel a connectedness  
22          and, in fact, many of them wanted to talk  
23          about the signs that have been put up in the  
24          township noting, you know, well, we have a

1 sign here and they didn't really want that  
2 sign there, and they would not even know  
3 where to begin to have part of that dialogue.

4 I think it's really important that we  
5 begin to reflect diverse interests in  
6 population, because we have lots of children  
7 in schools that are going to grow up.

8 If we want to build a stronger U.S., if  
9 we want to have cultures that are strong, we  
10 need to be inclusive, and there's too many of  
11 us that all look the same, that do the same  
12 kinds of jobs.

13 So I'm afraid we're disenfranchising  
14 them. So that's my voice of the people  
15 piece. I think the next one I want to talk  
16 about is that --

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Ms. Mueller, do you want  
18 to wrap up? There are more people to testify.

19 MS. MUELLER: I think I can get through  
20 this.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: That's fine. I'm sorry  
22 to interrupt.

23 MS. MUELLER: The next one I want to  
24 talk about is all areas are not equal. And

1           our township is, you know, even with its own  
2           little geography, it's not all the same.

3                   Some of us have Route 1.   Some of us  
4           have 202.   Some of us have rural issues.   I  
5           think it's really important.

6                   I think we've neglected the southern  
7           part, the part where you've got traffic not  
8           well managed.   You've got the Beaver Valley  
9           being developed and more houses coming in.

10                   And you're going to have a national  
11           monument there.   And we have an opportunity  
12           to really build the right kind of entrance  
13           and the right kind of approach that people  
14           see, wow, Pennsylvania is part of this, too,  
15           instead of looking like when you drive  
16           through the neighborhoods and then you come  
17           into this national monument where people are  
18           going to be coming to.

19                   So it makes me really sad that we did  
20           not anticipate, think of the opportunity for  
21           us to do something really great with that,  
22           rather than taking the last little bit of  
23           untouched property and turning it into I'm  
24           going to say McMansions, but I don't know

1           what they are.

2                   I think the last part, I'd say something  
3           about transparency. You know, I have a  
4           sense, and I don't know any of these people  
5           very personally, but I have a sense that  
6           almost everybody on the township supervisor  
7           board has got some tie to building or  
8           construction or the sewer system or a  
9           relative or someone that is a close  
10          connection.

11                   And so the only time we ever hear about  
12          conflicts of interest is just like, well,  
13          so-and-so can't be here because there's a  
14          conflict of interest. But we don't really  
15          know what that is.

16                   I think transparency would say to me  
17          that we would understand who represents us,  
18          what their potential conflicts of interest  
19          are, and we would expect them to recuse  
20          themselves. That's the only responsible  
21          thing to do. But you need to still have  
22          enough time to maintain the vote.

23                   So there's a part of me that feels like,  
24          you know, we need to have more transparency

1           there.  So --

2                   THE CHAIRMAN:  Thank you very much.  
3           Thank you very much.  At the end if you want  
4           to come back up and have another five  
5           minutes --

6                   MS. MUELLER:  I have two more statements  
7           to make.  Do you want --

8                   THE CHAIRMAN:  I kind of do.

9                   MS. MUELLER:  Okay.  Thank you.

10   - - -

11   (Audience Applause)

12   - - -

13                   MR. MILEY:  Rufus Miley, 22 Leopard Run.  
14           I'd like to yield my five minutes to Ann to  
15           come back and finish what she's saying.

16                   THE CHAIRMAN:  She's welcome to come  
17           back after everyone's had a chance.  We have  
18           rules.  I let her go longer than anticipated.  
19           Comments are certainly welcome.

20                   MR. MILEY:  My comments are the same as  
21           they've been at virtually all of your  
22           meetings up to this point, and my concern  
23           rests on you start fiddling with what's  
24           happening here and the increase in cost

1           that's attributable to it, and I think we've  
2           heard that if you go to a First Class  
3           Township, it doesn't offer much different  
4           than what it is here, but what it would  
5           potentially do is that we would be the only  
6           First Class Township in Pennsylvania that  
7           didn't have a private police department.

8           So you start adding a police department  
9           to this thing, and suddenly the cost goes out  
10          of sight. So I think all of that has to be  
11          factored in.

12           THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

13           MR. FOSTER: Talk about what you've  
14          recapped in the past. It's very informative.

15           MR. MILEY: I mean, my comments to you  
16          before were that your group was born by  
17          Dominic Pileggi's own admission, your group  
18          was born to counteract the Concord First  
19          Group's proposal to get an item on the  
20          ballot.

21           I just don't know that there's a need to  
22          start by reorganizing everything. I think  
23          the transparency issue is certainly there.

24           There is a lot of people that do not

1 support the board of supervisors, whether  
2 they be democrat or republican. They do not  
3 agree with the way things are being operated  
4 at the present time.

5 But changing the charter I'm not sure is  
6 going to make any difference on that.

7 Probably the only difference, as I understand  
8 it, that would be made if you went to a First  
9 Class Township, the members of the new board  
10 of commissioners would be appointed by the  
11 Court of Common Pleas in Delaware County.

12 So then you would potentially have a  
13 better chance to have a more diverse  
14 representation.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

16 - - -

17 (Audience Applause)

18 - - -

19 MR. FOSTER: Dan Foster, 141 Andean  
20 Road. First of all, I've been here just  
21 about every single night. I've been here  
22 videotaping and listening to the arguments.

23 First of all, I want to say thank you  
24 for the job you're doing. I think you're

1           doing a great job.

2                   And even though you were handpicked for  
3           this position, you, I think, are being  
4           genuine and doing your diligent research.

5                   One of the things that's been important  
6           to me has been looking for dissenting  
7           opinions. And you've interviewed Cheltenham  
8           Township, Middletown Township.

9                   You've interviewed people for Home Rule  
10          Charter, Second Class Townships, and if I'm  
11          not mistaken First Class Townships?

12                   THE CHAIRMAN: We did not have a  
13          representative from a First Class Township  
14          association.

15                   MR. FOSTER: So we didn't look into the  
16          First Class Township at all; is that correct?

17                   THE CHAIRMAN: Not --

18                   MR. MADDREN: First Class Township is  
19          not an option for this commission.

20                   MR. FOSTER: I'm well aware of that now,  
21          but at the beginning of this process, it was  
22          my understanding that the Government Study  
23          Commission would study all forms of  
24          government and that First Class Township

1 would be looked into.

2 But I wanted to make sure that everybody  
3 knew for the record that it has not been  
4 looked into as a potential form of  
5 government.

6 Getting back to the dissenting opinions,  
7 I don't think that this commission has  
8 looked, has reached out to people who may  
9 have dissenting opinions of the way the  
10 current township is structured.

11 You have interviewed the township  
12 manager. You have interviewed the treasurer.  
13 You've interviewed the code enforcement  
14 officer.

15 Now, they're going to be on the record  
16 here, and they may offer a few suggestions,  
17 but they're not going to fundamentally tell  
18 you in an open forum what is -- what major  
19 changes should be made.

20 So getting dissenting opinion is really  
21 difficult. And if there was a way to do it  
22 anonymously, maybe through the website where  
23 people could submit ideas to help give you  
24 good ideas to help make a better informed

1 opinion.

2 Otherwise, just last Thursday, it  
3 sounded like the rose-colored glasses were on  
4 and that everything is working really good.  
5 And I do think things are working, you know,  
6 good, but I'm sure there's room for  
7 improvement.

8 And like I mentioned on Thursday,  
9 Concord west does not have a sitting  
10 supervisor from that area.

11 And right now before Mr. Pileggi  
12 resigns, there's three supervisors from one  
13 particular precinct. It's all concentrated  
14 in one precinct.

15 And if there was representation from the  
16 west side of the township, it may be the vote  
17 on Vineyard Commons may have been a little  
18 bit different, someone who is fighting for  
19 that particular area.

20 So I just want to reiterate what I said  
21 on Thursday. Maybe do a ward system with  
22 maybe four wards with three at-large  
23 positions as a suggestion.

24 A couple of other ideas that I had come

1 up with or that I've talked to other people  
2 about. Rufus brought this up the other  
3 night.

4 It's about rotation of the chairmanship.  
5 And I think that is something that has a lot  
6 of merit, and it basically allows each  
7 supervisor to take the chair and make sure  
8 there's more balanced decision making and it  
9 doesn't rest on one particular person.

10 Chairman Pileggi, I know it is a big  
11 responsibility, the decisions he has to make  
12 as chairman. And I think he may like to have  
13 that role transitioned to somebody else at  
14 some point so there's not so much  
15 responsibility.

16 Another idea: How about a monthly bill  
17 list at the township meetings where all of  
18 the expenditures -- it is my understanding  
19 that a bill list used to be provided at the  
20 township meetings.

21 I don't know if that's more of a policy  
22 idea, but I'm just throwing out ideas for you  
23 to possibly explore and see if it would be  
24 appropriate or if you could make some

1 suggestions and see if we can incorporate  
2 them for more transparency. That's the goal.

3 Also with regards to the building  
4 inspector, it's my understanding that the  
5 requirements for a building inspector is,  
6 there's a certain amount of education and  
7 certification that's required there.

8 I'm sure Manos does a great job. But  
9 have you looked into the training, the  
10 education, the certification that's required  
11 for that position?

12 Also for the treasurer, what kind of  
13 requirements for the treasurer? Does Joanne  
14 have -- what's her background? Does she have  
15 a CPA degree? Is that something that we  
16 should require?

17 Also for the township manager, is there  
18 a minimum requirement for that? These are  
19 just a couple ideas I'm throwing out there.  
20 Maybe it's worth exploring. Maybe it's not.  
21 I don't know.

22 But it's, these are ideas that I've not  
23 heard yet except for Rufus's ideas.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Could you wrap it up,

1           then maybe come back at the end if you want  
2           to have other comments?

3           MR. FOSTER: I have one more point.  
4           I'll do it at the end. Okay.

5           THE CHAIRMAN: Appreciate it.

6                                 - - -

7                                 (Audience Applause)

8                                 - - -

9           MR. TWERSKY: Just for the record, I  
10          think you misspoke, Dan. It's Mr. Cappelli  
11          who's resigning at the end of the month. You  
12          said Mr. Pileggi.

13          MR. FOSTER: Thank you.

14          MR. MASON: Good evening. Steven Mason,  
15          3 Cobbler Lane. A comment was just made  
16          moments ago that this group, the Government  
17          Study Commission, is not even considering  
18          First Class Township as an option through  
19          this entire process; is that correct?

20          MR. MADDREN: The law doesn't allow us  
21          to consider First Class Township as an  
22          option. It has basically three courses that  
23          it can take. Let me finish.

24                         One is to stay the same. One is to go

1 to an Optional Plan. There are Optional  
2 Plans that sort of look First Class, but  
3 they're not technically First Class.

4 The other is Home Rule Charter. Home  
5 Rule Charter, you basically create your own  
6 system of government.

7 MR. MASON: And I have a handout. One  
8 is change the status from Second to First  
9 Class Township.

10 MR. MADDREN: Well, I'm not sure who  
11 drafted the handout, but it's inaccurate.

12 MR. MASON: That's what I'm working  
13 with. Just to summarize, you guys are here  
14 because there was referendum on the ballot,  
15 there's actually two referendums on the  
16 ballot.

17 A large number of people want change.  
18 That's pretty much the bottom line. They  
19 want change. Thank you.

20 MS. BROWN: Katie Brown, 850 Shavertown  
21 Road. I just want to follow up. A thousand  
22 Concord Township residents spoke about what  
23 they thought was important for this township,  
24 and I just don't want those voices to be

1 silenced again with this commission. Thank  
2 you.

3 MR. SCHOENBERGER: John Schoenberger,  
4 301 Sparrow's Ridge. Interestingly enough,  
5 today in the Washington Post was an article  
6 about a township in Maryland, near DC, where  
7 the mirror image of what happened here was  
8 expressed there, where there didn't seem to  
9 be a lot of connection between the governed  
10 and the governors, okay, that the town  
11 council didn't seem to listen with respect or  
12 even listen maybe.

13 Anyway, I think that we've been working  
14 through the issues. An area of concern is  
15 the term of office, okay. Six years, too  
16 long.

17 When you start repeating it, you have  
18 people who have been here since the flood and  
19 still in power, okay, although certainly  
20 they've rotated chairmanship, that may  
21 change.

22 But term of office is something we  
23 should seriously take a look at. Two, four,  
24 six years has been batted around. But I

1 think that maybe with that type of thing,  
2 people would get the sense that they should  
3 listen to one another and that they're not  
4 there forever and have a sense that -- and  
5 it's a double-edged sword here.

6 If you do something and do it well  
7 enough, people keep coming back and say,  
8 he'll do it, and then not step up themselves,  
9 okay, and run for office, whatever else. You  
10 can see that type of thing as a possibility.

11 I'm losing my train of thought. If  
12 you're not sitting there always feeling you  
13 have all the answers but none of the  
14 solutions, maybe it's time to -- a change is  
15 going on. I think we should be looking at  
16 somewhere along the line a term of office.  
17 Okay.

18 - - -

19 (Audience Applause)

20 - - -

21 MR. GILLESPIE: John Gillespie, 20  
22 Huntingdon Farm Drive in Glen Mills. I have  
23 been to maybe three or four of the  
24 commission's meetings, and I'm quite

1           disappointed that the public hasn't come out  
2           for tonight's meeting.

3           I thought with the advertisements that  
4           were in the newspaper and the word that has  
5           gotten around that we'd have more people in  
6           the audience that would come forward and  
7           share their opinions, so I'm a little  
8           disappointed on that end.

9           I've been involved with Concord Township  
10          for 17 years, and I believe that the township  
11          government is operating very smoothly.

12          I started out on the planning  
13          commission. I was appointed to the board of  
14          supervisors, substantially reelected to the  
15          board of supervisors, appointed to the sewer  
16          authority.

17          And we have five members of our board of  
18          supervisors and, in my opinion, five is about  
19          the number that I'd like to see.

20          Prior to my involvement in the township,  
21          I was a consulting engineer, and I worked for  
22          approximately 20 different municipalities  
23          that had anywhere from three board members to  
24          14 board members.

1           In my experience, in my opinion, the  
2           more people you have on the board, the less  
3           work you get done. Some people are there  
4           just to collect a paycheck and shake their  
5           head yes or no or whatever.

6           I've seen it throughout Delaware County,  
7           Chester County, Montgomery County, and Bucks  
8           County. I think that's about all I want to  
9           say.

10          I would like to see the township stay  
11          with five supervisors, possibly with a Home  
12          Rule Charter. I know there's some things  
13          that we are stymied with from time to time,  
14          such as health requirements.

15          We have many, many establishments,  
16          restaurants and bars, that we don't have any  
17          health inspector. We don't have the  
18          provision to enforce some of our ordinances.

19          We don't have police power, not that we  
20          need a police department, but possibly a  
21          constable that would have police authority  
22          that could come out and enforce some of our  
23          ordinances.

24          I know Middletown Township has done a

1 similar type form of government with the Home  
2 Rule Charter.

3 Possibly in the Home Rule Charter, we  
4 could put in there, I don't know how this  
5 would work, that if the board would stay at  
6 five members, that if there's a point in the  
7 future that the board would need to be  
8 enlarged or maybe reduced, that the option  
9 would be there to either reduce or enlarge  
10 the number of members that would be on the  
11 board.

12 That's about it. Thank you.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Did you want to come  
14 back, add another minute or two? Actually,  
15 another five.

16 MS. MUELLER: So, I mean, I really feel  
17 like addressing balance of power is  
18 important, and part of that balance of power  
19 I think could be doing something about the  
20 length of the term.

21 I think that's probably a really  
22 important thing, because our times are  
23 changing so fast today.

24 I know for businesses and schools and

1 everyone to keep up, the influx of new ideas,  
2 new people, I've lived someplace else, I've  
3 seen something different, I've got some  
4 ideas, that is really what brings you a  
5 really healthy rate of change, I think. So I  
6 think that would be an important idea.

7 I mentioned the voice of the people.  
8 The comment I was going to make is that for a  
9 thousand people to get out and vote in a week  
10 out of 17,000 is a really big number, and  
11 they weren't voting for political lines or  
12 for outcomes.

13 They were really voting to say I want to  
14 be more represented. I want someone who  
15 lives where I do or looks like I do or talks  
16 and thinks like I do that's sitting on the  
17 board governing my property, my roadways, my  
18 place of employment.

19 So I really want to go back and talk  
20 about that voice of the people. That all  
21 areas are not equal I think seems like a  
22 really important concept, because that speaks  
23 to why we need distributed representation.

24 You know, I don't know the magic number.

1           It could be five and it could be ten. Odd is  
2           usually better for voting. I do think five.

3                     But I think it needs to be  
4           geographically distributed. That would be  
5           something that people would recognize makes a  
6           big difference to them.

7                     I think other people have brought up the  
8           transparency component, which is we should  
9           really understand and have perhaps a day to  
10          get to know your supervisors and your board  
11          members so that you know what it is that they  
12          do and where they potentially have conflicts  
13          of interest so we can actually move around  
14          those and not even have any of our processes  
15          colored by potential conflict of interest or  
16          the perception of it.

17                    I've mentioned the idea of shorter  
18          terms. The numbers of people on the board  
19          doesn't matter to me as much as that it's  
20          geographically representative and it has the  
21          opportunity really to look at all parts of  
22          the government.

23                    And so I guess the last thing, I just  
24          have to say this to you. Are you the legal

1           counsel for the --

2                   MR. MADDREN:    I am.

3                   MS. MUELLER:   We're looking at the paper  
4           that we were given by the township when this  
5           was set up, and it very clearly includes  
6           consideration of First Class.

7                   So I understand the options and maybe  
8           you're shortening them, but I do want to say  
9           that what I read about Home Rule Charter, and  
10          I am very sorry that I wasn't here, but I  
11          can't go too many places.

12                   But the Home Rule Charter scares me a  
13          lot, because it's looking -- it sounds like  
14          it's looking to increase the amount of  
15          governance and oversight and power that we  
16          have in our township, and I'm not sure that  
17          we don't have enough.  It's just not well  
18          distributed.

19                   So there's a part of me that thinks if  
20          we're trying to strengthen local government,  
21          I'm not sure that's a good idea.

22                   I think we need to be in harmony with  
23          Chadds Ford and the other surrounding areas,  
24          and I think there needs to be balance.  So

1 I'm really concerned about a Home Rule  
2 Charter.

3 I think we cannot stay where we are. I  
4 think we've lost trust. We've lost  
5 confidence. I think we see it when people  
6 don't show up and vote on election days.

7 That makes me so incredibly sad, that  
8 people feel like it doesn't matter, I'm not  
9 going to bother. Democracy doesn't work if  
10 we don't show up and vote.

11 I think First Class is the thing I have  
12 to recommend. I don't know if we can call it  
13 something else, but First Class means that we  
14 have representative government, so there are  
15 people there that represent all the  
16 geographic areas of the township.

17 So that's it. Thank you all very much,  
18 and I do appreciate your service. I don't  
19 know how any of us can spend any more  
20 evenings doing more work and things. It is a  
21 service to us, and it's recognized and  
22 appreciated. Thank you.

23 - - -

24 (Audience Applause)

1 - - -

2 MR. FOSTER: Okay. Real short, kind of  
3 follow up what Ann said about checks and  
4 balances. Right now our current structure is  
5 the board of supervisors, they are the  
6 legislative and executive branch of  
7 government.

8 It's a lot of power in one central  
9 location. And I know that there's been a  
10 discussion during some of these meetings  
11 about a mayor, which there's not been a whole  
12 lot of discussion about, or an executive  
13 manager.

14 But maybe we could look into that a  
15 little bit further, about how to separate the  
16 legislative and executive branches of  
17 government to where the legislative makes the  
18 ordinances and the executive enforces it,  
19 because right now what we have is the board  
20 of supervisors can basically essentially pick  
21 and choose what ordinances they want to  
22 enforce through waivers or variances, things  
23 like that.

24 So I think if you believe in limited

1 government, this is one way, but this is  
2 fundamentally changing the structure of  
3 government here, and I usually don't like  
4 that kind of rash change.

5 I'm more conservative that way in my way  
6 of thinking, gradual, slow. I've always  
7 tried to provide positive opinions that's  
8 respectful.

9 And hopefully it gives you some food for  
10 thought and maybe one of these other forms  
11 would be something to explore. Thank you.

12 - - -

13 (Audience Applause)

14 - - -

15 THE CHAIRMAN: I don't remember your  
16 name, but I know you wanted to say something.

17 MS. BROWN: Yes. Katie Brown. I was  
18 just curious, the commission will give a  
19 recommendation at some point, and that will  
20 go to the board of supervisors; is that  
21 correct?

22 MR. MADDREN: The commission has three  
23 options. One is to do nothing, keep the  
24 Second Class Township.

1           The other two are Optional Plan or Home  
2 Rule, and those would be done by referendum.  
3 So the commission would set a date for a  
4 vote, and the public would vote on whether  
5 they want to stay in the current form of  
6 government or go to whatever form the  
7 commission recommends.

8           MS. BROWN: Okay. Thank you.

9           MR. FOSTER: Can I say one more thing?  
10 It's the shortest meeting you've ever had.

11          THE CHAIRMAN: We'll take one last call  
12 if anybody wants to say something; otherwise,  
13 we'll call for a motion to adjourn.

14          Do I have a motion to adjourn?

15          MR. MADDREN: For the record, you should  
16 close the hearing.

17          THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. The hearing is now  
18 closed officially.

19          Do I have a motion to adjourn?

20          MS. FIUMARA: So moved.

21          THE CHAIRMAN: Is there a second?

22          MR. BRINER: Second.

23          THE CHAIRMAN: All those in favor?

24                           - - -

1 (The Board unanimously responds aye.)

2 - - -

3 THE CHAIRMAN: All those opposed?

4 - - -

5 (No response.)

6 - - -

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you all very much  
8 for coming out. We wish we had this many  
9 people every meeting.

10 - - -

11 (Proceedings concluded at 7:47 p.m.)

12 - - -

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3                   CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER  
4  
5

6                   I, Norma Gerrity, a Registered  
7 Professional Reporter, do hereby certify that the  
8 foregoing record is a true and accurate transcript  
9 of my stenographic notes in the above-captioned  
10 matter.  
11  
12  
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14                   Norma Gerrity, RPR  
15                   Official Court Reporter  
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