

**Concord Township
Government Study Commission (GSC)
MINUTES OF MEETING OF JANUARY 8, 2015**

I. CALL TO ORDER.

The meeting was called to order by GSC Chairman James Gray at 7:02 PM on January 8, 2015, at the Concord Township Municipal Building. The following GSC members were present: James Gray, Rosemary Fiumara, Diane Bohr, Joshua Twersky, Andrew Briner, Matthew Houtmann, and Robert Tribit. Also present: Concord Township Supervisor John Gillespie.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Gray reported: 1) that the GSC had met twice in executive session to discuss personnel matters; 2) that the GSC is aware of the 12/31/14 Supreme Court order denying the petition to intervene; and 3) that the issue of the appointment of an alternate GSC member will not be discussed until after consulting with legal counsel.

Chairman Gray announced that, out of deference to our guest speaker who had traveled from Lancaster, the Agenda would be modified so that Mr. Herr could make his presentation before the rest of the Agenda items were addressed.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS.

D. Mason, 3 Cobbler Lane, distributed copies of "Appellants' Application for Leave to File a Post Submission Communication" at No. 126 MAP 2014 in the Supreme Court of PA to all GSC members.

R. Miley, 22 Leopard Run, recited a list of attorneys who he deems inappropriate for consideration to serve as GSC solicitor.

J. Stolley, 439 Featherbed Lane, concurred with Mr. Miley, and expressed his opinion about the role of the GSC.

C. Brown, 5 Cobbler Lane, suggested that GSC read the First Class Township Code.

IV. OLD BUSINESS.

1. Motion by R. Fiumara to approve Minutes of December 16, 2014 meeting; seconded by J. Twersky. A voice vote was called for and Commission Members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

V. NEW BUSINESS.

1. Consider Appointment of GSC Solicitor.

M. Houtmann made a motion to appoint Michael Maddren as solicitor for the GSC, based on his interest in the position, his education and qualifications, and his extensive experience with municipal government, including townships of the second class, townships of the first class, boroughs, cities, and home rule charters. Motion seconded by J. Twersky. A roll call vote followed, (7-0), and the motion carried.

2. Presentation by Elam Herr, Assistant Director, PA State Association of Township Supervisors.

Mr. Herr was introduced, and portions of the bio of his 39 years of experience shared with the GSC. He provided a very thorough, informative and educational 90-minute lecture, which was accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation, that compared First Class Townships v. Second Class Townships; Home Rule Charters; and optional forms of government. The GSC handout (5 pages) of that PowerPoint presentation is attached.

Following the presentation, Mr. Herr fielded questions and listened to comments from GSC members and numerous Concord Township citizens.

3. Agenda Development.

R. Tribit contacted Marita Kelley at the Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) in Harrisburg, and she agreed to attend a GSC meeting and offered to provide names of other experts who might be consulted and/or called upon to speak at a GSC meeting.

J. Twersky and R. Tribit will visit Cheltenham Township to review the materials from their Government Study Commission and will report back.

Chairman Gray reiterated that the GSC, during the course of their study, will be reviewing ALL forms of government in the months ahead, and that those with expertise and experience in each area will be invited to the public meetings.

Since the elected officials of the Township addressed the GSC on December 16, M. Houtmann suggested that the GSC also interview appointed officials, such as the Township Manager, to get opinions from their perspective as well.

4. Public Outreach Update

M. Houtman reported that the Township provided a list of contact information for the schools, churches, and community groups, as well as the director at Maris Grove. He will continue efforts to obtain similar information for Fox Hill Farm, The Riviera at Concord, and other larger homeowner associations.

R. Tribit reported that Maris Grove has expressed interest in having one of the GSC public meetings at their facility.

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

V. PUBLIC COMMENT.

D. Foster, 141 Andrien Road, asked about the appointment of the alternate member of the GSC, and when the executive sessions were held.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS.

None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to discuss, J. Twersky made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 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, January 29, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.