

**Concord Township  
Government Study Commission (GSC)  
Minutes of Meeting of October 29, 2015**

**I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

The meeting was called to order by GSC Chairman James Gray at 4:40 PM on October 29, 2015, at the Garnet Valley Education Center, 80 Station Road, Glen Mills, PA. (The Township public meeting room was not available because of construction/painting. Notice of the meeting was advertised in the local newspaper and on the Township website.) GSC members who were present: James Gray, Rosemary Fiumara, Joshua Twersky, Diane Bohr, Andrew Briner, Matthew Houtmann and Robert Tribit. Also present: GSC Solicitor Michael Maddren. Following roll call, the meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS.**

None.

**III. OLD BUSINESS.**

Approval of Minutes: M. Houtmann made a motion to approve the Minutes of the October 15, 2015 meeting; motion seconded by R. Fiumara. A voice vote was called for and Commission Members voted 7-to-0 to approve the motion.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS.**

Home Rule Charter Drafting Workshop Discussion

Gerald Cross, Joseph Boyle, and Lynne Shedlock of the PA Economy League (PEL) attended the 10/29/15 meeting. For two hours, the GSC members and PEL representatives continued to discuss, debate, edit, and exchange opinions while fine-tuning the provisions of Article I (General Powers) and Article II (Legislative Branch) of the proposed Home Rule Charter.

In addition, Mr. Cross distributed to the Chairman examples of Final Reports prepared by other Government Study Commissions. The procedure will be: the Concord Township GSC will issue its Report to the citizens; the GSC members will take one formal vote, and that vote will be to approve the Report of the Commission. The Report will essentially state that the GSC has done its work; the GSC investigated and considered the various options, and concluded that a Home Rule Charter would be the best option; the GSC drafted the Home Rule Charter, and the HRC is now being presented to the citizens of Concord Township for approval or disapproval. The Charter is included in the Report, and the citizens will vote to accept or not accept the Report, so it is very important for the GSC to educate the public about the work that was done; the contents of the Report; what changes have been made - basically explaining: *This is what we did, and why we did it.* The Final Report has to be ready at the same time as the Charter. Mr. Cross encouraged the members to individually compose a list of (1) why they voted to draft a Home

Rule Charter; (2) what were you trying to cure; (3) what did you learn during study and deliberations.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT.**

Michael Squyres, 71 Fox Valley Lane , Glen Mills, a 44-year resident of Concord Township and former Chairman of the Concord Township Planning Commission and numerous Township boards and organizations, expressed his opinion regarding the at-large vs. ward system, and reported that he had not met anyone at any meeting, private or public, who was in favor of a ward system form of government for Concord Township. Mr. Squyres thank the GSC for the work that has been done, and apologized for not attending more meetings.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT.**

There being no further business to discuss, J. Twersky made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 PM, seconded by R. Tribit. A voice vote was called for and Commission Members voted (6-0) to approve the motion. (Mr. Briner left the meeting at 5:35 PM).

Respectfully submitted,

Diane S. Bohr, Secretary  
Concord Township Government Study Commission

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 3, 2015, at 4:30 PM