

**Concord Township  
Government Study Commission (GSC)  
MINUTES OF MEETING OF FEBRUARY 19, 2015**

**I. CALL TO ORDER.**

The meeting was called to order by GSC Chairman James Gray at 7:00 PM on February 5, 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: GSC Solicitor Michael Maddren and Township Manager Brenda Lamanna.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS.**

None.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS.**

Motion by R. Fiumara to approve the Minutes of February 5, 2015 meeting; seconded by R. Tribit. A voice vote was called for and Commission Members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

M. Houtmann provided an update regarding ordinance enforcement in Middletown Township: the position of Parking Enforcement Officer (and 2 constables) was created to cite, for example, vehicles parked at the Elwyn train station. With regard to violations of the noise ordinance, if it's a public nuisance issue (or late at night) the State Police will respond.

**V. NEW BUSINESS.**

- Concord Township Manager Brenda Lamanna provided a Township Organization Chart and a brief description of the duties and responsibilities of each Department head, and then answered questions for 90 minutes concerning the Concord Township Administrative Code, zoning, land use/subdivisions, sewers, voting precincts, role of PA State Police, finances, tax collector, inter-municipal agreements with neighboring townships/boroughs, personnel, right-to-know requests, etc. Brenda offered to present any questions the GSC has regarding the specific workings of particular departments to the Department heads, but suggested that the GSC interview each of them too.

**- Agenda Development.**

Chairman Gray distributed a Schedule of Meetings, together with a list of officials from Concord Township and elsewhere, who the GSC had previously discussed should be contacted or visited in order to complete its study of all forms of government, and asked members to consider additions to list, and to consider what else might be needed to assist in making decisions/recommendations in the not too distant future.

Chairman Gray will contact Code/Zoning Officer Manos Kavadias and Finance Director/Treasurer JoAnne Demnicki to ascertain their availability to meet with the GSC on March 5, 2015.

GSC Attorney Mike Maddren reminded the GSC that a decision (and Report) as to how to proceed must be made by August 4, 2015, which is 9 months from the date of election. If a Home Rule Charter form of government is selected, the GSC will have an additional 9 months to complete its duties.

**- Public Outreach Update.**

J. Twersky and R. Tribit will make a presentation to the residents of Maris Grove on February 23 at 2:00 PM.

J. Twersky and J. Gray will meet with the Rotary on February 25.

R. Tribit, J. Twersky and R. Fiumara will address the residents of Fox Hill Farm on March 21 at 7:00 PM.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT.**

R. Miley, 22 Leopard Run, made observations about 1) the need for GSC to explore sewer costs; 2) the costs associated with having a police department: staff, equipment, liability, etc; 3) where residents will vote if additional voting districts are created; and 4) Fair Share Zoning and mandated PRDs.

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS.**

- GSC Attorney Maddren provided clarification as to what happens to current ordinances if a Home Rule Charter (HRC) is adopted. Typically, HRCs contain a "Savings Clause" and remain in effect as long as they are not in direct conflict with any existing ordinances.

- Mr. Maddren, in response to a question posed regarding an amendment to the First Class Code to the effect: *the commissioners shall fix the number and appoint the police ...* advised that the commissioners can fix the number at zero.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT.**

There being no further business to discuss, J. Twersky made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 PM, seconded by M. Houtmann. 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, March 5, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.