

Concord Township
Government Study Commission (GSC)
Minutes of Meeting of May 7, 2015

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

The meeting was called to order by GSC Chairman James Gray at 7:05 PM on May 7, 2015, at the Concord Township Municipal Building. GSC members who were present: James Gray, Rosemary Fiumara, Diane Bohr, Joshua Twersky, Matthew Houtmann, Robert Tribit and Andrew Briner. 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.

Motion by R. Fiumara to approve the Minutes of April 16, 2015 meeting; seconded by J. Twersky. A voice vote was called for and Commission Members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

IV. NEW BUSINESS.

The opinions of the seven members were expressed regarding the pros and cons of: 1) the current Township of the Second Class form of government, 2) optional plans that have been studied, 3) how to implement a Home Rule Charter with the best aspects of a Township of the Second Class, 4) term limits of Township officers; 5) wards vs. at-large representation, or a mixture of both. In addition there was consensus regarding the importance of making recommendations that would reflect and consider the diversity of the Township, as well as a discussion regarding other avenues for revenue in the future; the powers and responsibilities of a Township Manager being clearly spelled out. There was acknowledgement that the GSC would be mindful of the cost involved with changes to the current form of government, and that recommendations should be long-lasting, not a quick fix. Bottom line: The final decision is up to the voters of Concord Township!

V. PUBLIC COMMENT.

R. Miley, 22 Leopard Run, expressed his opinion regarding 1) his opposition to a ward system of government, 2) an “operational” Township audit, since there are only financial audits at the present time, 3) the lack of an Assistant Township Manager, 4) rotation of the position of Chair of the Board of Supervisors, and 5) term limits of Supervisors. In addition, he advised the GSC that he learned earlier in the week that the Township Newsletter, Spring Edition, will appear on the Township website shortly.

J. Schoenberger, 301 Sparrows Ridge (Maris Grove), expressed his opinion regarding 1) the formation of the Government Study Commission, and 2) the correlation between growth, density, and desirability, 3) responsiveness to minority party.

D. Foster, 141 Andrien Road, expressed his opinion regarding 1) decisions that have been made when there is a greater concentration of Supervisors and the focus to take care of one area of the township, 2) “no representation” in the West precinct, 3) his personal preference for a form of government that would be “maybe 3 at-large and maybe 4 by district or wards”.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS.

- **Treasurer’s Report:** GSC Treasurer Joshua Twersky submitted a bill for legal services dated May 4, 2015, from Solicitor Michael Maddren in the amount of \$1,770.00. M. Houtmann made a motion to approve payment of the bill; seconded by D. Bohr. A voice vote was called for and Commission Members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

- **Agenda Development/Public Outreach Update.** The first public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, 2015, at 7:00 PM. The Public Notice of Hearing appeared in the Daily Times on April 24, 2015. A Press Release was sent to the *Daily Times*, *Garnet Valley Press*, *Chaddsfordlive.com*, and it will also appear on the GSC tab of the Concord Township website.

- J. Twersky took the opportunity to express his appreciation to Chairman Jim Gray for his outstanding leadership of the GSC during the past 5-1/2 months.

VII. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to discuss, J. Twersky made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 PM, seconded by R. Tribit. 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

Public Hearing: Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at 7:00 PM

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 21, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.