

Minutes of July 16, 2015;
Approved: August 6, 2015

Concord Township
Government Study Commission (GSC)
Minutes of Meeting of July 16, 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 July 16, 2015, at the Concord Township Municipal Building. GSC members who were present: James Gray, Rosemary Fiumara, Diane Bohr, Joshua Twersky, Robert Tribit, Andrew Briner and Matthew Houtmann. 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.

R. Fiumara made a motion to approve the Minutes of July 8, 2015 meeting; motion seconded by J. Twersky. A voice vote was called for and Commission Members voted 6-to-1 to approve the motion (Matthew Houtmann abstained).

IV. NEW BUSINESS.

Consider Forms of Government: Each of the seven GSC members made a statement as to his or her individual feelings and reasons for casting a vote for a particular form of government. The three options were: 1) Remain a Township of the Second Class; 2) Council/Manager Optional Plan, or 3) Home Rule Charter.

Following those personal statements, D. Bohr made a motion that the Concord Township Government Study Commission proceed to draft a Home Rule Charter to be submitted to the voters of Concord Township for consideration via referendum at an election to be determined after its completion. Motion seconded by A. Briner.

A voice vote was called for and Commission Members voted unanimously (7-to-0) to approve the motion.

Consider Proposal for Professional Consulting Work: Chairman Gray reported that the GSC had received only one formal response to the "Request for Proposal (RFP)", and it was from the Pennsylvania Economy League/Center for Excellence in Local Government at Albright College in an amount not to exceed \$67,000.00.

Following a lengthy discussion, a committee composed of R. Fiumara, R. Tribit and M. Houtmann agreed to meet with the PA Economy League for clarification of its proposal, and to learn if the GSC wants to negotiate with them, and how we would go about that. The committee will report back to the GSC on August 6.

M. Houtmann made a motion that, should the need arise, the GSC would pay the PEL consultants \$75.00 an hour, up to \$600.00, in order to obtain their advice and expertise as to the best and most economical way to proceed with the drafting of the Home Rule Charter; motion seconded by R. Fiumara. A voice vote was called for and Commission Members voted 6-to-1 to approve the motion (R. Tribit abstained).

V. PUBLIC COMMENT.

J. Wellington, 20 Brandywine Street, Chadds Ford, asked how the RFP was bid (hourly or by function); and expressed his personal opinion about the method of drafting of a Home Rule Charter.

D. Foster, 141 Andrien Road, asked whether the meeting of July 16 was advertised in the newspaper, and Solicitor Maddren advised him that it was not necessary; that the date of the meeting was posted on the website months ago; a public hearing was held on May 13, 2015; a motion was made; and a vote was taken.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS.

M. Houtmann inquired whether some or all of the GSC meetings could be changed from 7:00 PM to 4:00 PM because of the hardship the meetings place on regular family dinner hours and early evening activities. GSC meetings have been running longer than two hours twice a month, and members are not getting home until after 9:00 PM. J. Twersky agreed wholeheartedly with the suggestion. The matter will be considered and revisited at the August 6 meeting.

In response to the request made on July 8, 2015, that the GSC meetings be listed on the Township Calendar, D. Bohr advised of the following response from the Township: "Since the GSC has been formed to conduct an independent study, we try to keep the meeting notices separate from regular township events. The schedule appears in the Township Newsletter in a separate section, and the meetings are listed under the Government Study Commission page, as well as the Announcements page."

VII. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to discuss, J. Gray made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM, seconded by J. Twersky. 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, August 6, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.