

Concord Township
Government Study Commission (GSC)
Minutes of Meeting of August 20, 2015

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

The meeting was called to order by GSC Chairman James Gray at 4:35 PM on August 20, 2015, at the Concord Township Municipal Building. GSC members who were present: James Gray, Rosemary Fiumara, Diane Bohr, and Matthew Houtmann. Not present: Joshua Twersky, Andrew Briner and Robert Tribit. (The GSC was advised prior to the meeting that these three members would not be present for the meeting of August 20; however, since 4 of the 7 members were present, the mandated quorum was met.) 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 August 6, 2015 meeting; motion seconded by R. Fiumara. A voice vote was called for and Commission Members voted unanimously (4-to-0) to approve the motion.

Budget Update:

Chairman Gray advised that, as a result of the decision to draft a Home Rule Charter and enlist the services of the PA Economy League (PEL), it was necessary to contact the Board of Supervisors with regard to funding. An additional \$100,000.00 is being requested: “not to exceed \$67,850.00” contract figure from PEL and future legal fees of approximately \$24,000.00; leaving \$8,000 for multimedia outreach, mailings, etc. It is anticipated that the actual costs will be well under those figures, since the GSC has already completed numerous tasks which PEL may require and will be able to proceed more quickly and efficiently as a result of not starting at “square one”.

IV. NEW BUSINESS.

Concord Township Census Tracts:

The census tracts & block groups maps from the Delaware County Planning Commission were discussed, including the guidelines established by the Election Code; the pros and cons of various scenarios were considered; the permissibility of splitting census tracts to create wards is currently in litigation and should be resolved by the time the GSC must address that issue; do different districts have different needs, i.e., commercial v. residential, regarding representation. It is hoped that PEL will be able to provide information to clarify multitude of questions on this topic. M. Houtmann will contact the Township Manager to ascertain whether population figures are available for multi-unit, multi-family residences at densely populated sites such as Fox Hill Farm, Maris Grove, Riviera at Concord, and the big apartment complexes: The Lantern at Glen Mills, Redstone at Concordville Town Center, and Valleybrook at Chadds Ford. Mr. Maddren will inquire whether actual population numbers can be obtained from the Delaware County Housing & Community Development Office or County Planning Commission.

Interim Report:

Mr. Maddren drafted an interim report setting forth the GSC's activities up to and including the unanimous vote on July 16, 2015 to draft a Home Rule Charter. The members offered opinions and suggestions for certain additions and deletions that would make the report more precise. Since there has been so much confusion and misinformation expressed at the public meetings and the public hearing regarding the various forms of government and the options under the law that were available to the GSC, it is hoped that an interim report would provide an explanation of how and why the GSC came to the decision to draft a Home Rule Charter. The interim report will, of course, be posted on the GSC website. A discussion followed as to the best way to distribute the interim report to all residents of Concord Township, to emphasize that the GSC is seeking the comments, concerns, suggestions and input of Concord Township residents regarding the drafting of the HRC.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT.

John Gillespie, 20 Huntingdon Farm Drive, commented on interim report and budget concerns.

Dan Levin, 4 Swain Court, commented on PA Supreme Court litigation and the GSC interim report.

OTHER BUSINESS.

Treasurer's Report: Since J. Twersky did not attend this meeting, there was no Treasurer's Report.

VII. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to discuss, M. Houtmann made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 PM, seconded by R. Fiumara. A voice vote was called for and Commission Members voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane S. Bohr, Secretary
Concord Township Government Study Commission

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 3, 2015 at 4:30 P.M.