



Sullivan County Charter Review Commission Meeting

December 16, 2015 at 6:00 PM

- Present:** Steve Altman, Paul Burckard, Sandra Johnson Fields, Dave Forshay, Fred Harding, Peg Harrison, Bill Liblick, Michael Levinson, Brian McPhillips, Larry Richardson, Ken Walter
- Absent:** Bruce Ferguson, Norman Sutherland
- Others Present:** Allison Horan, Chief of Staff to Assemblywoman Aileen Gunter, Daniel L. Briggs, County Clerk, Nancy Buck, County Treasurer, Cora Edwards, District 5 Legislator

The Sullivan County Charter Review Commission Meeting was called to order by Co-Chairperson Peg Harrison at 6:02 pm.

INTRODUCTION OF MICHAEL LEVINSON:

Co-Chairperson Harrison introduced Mr. Michael Levinson as the newest member of the Charter Review Commission.

Mr. Levinson stated that he was born and raised in Monticello, he went to Monticello High School, and he then went to the University of Miami and graduated with a degree in business. He came back to Monticello; he has been on the Village of Monticello ZBA, Planning Board of the Village Board for 8 years and many other organizations.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 18, 2015 MINUTES:

Mr. Richardson made a motion to accept and approve the November 18, 2015 minutes, seconded by Mr. Burckard, motion carried, 10-0 with Mr. Harding absent.

OLD BUSINESS:

Budget Request Response from Legislators:

Mr. Walters stated that he went to the Legislators and made the pitch under public comment, there were no questions or comments and he believes they did not do anything. Their budget has been adopted as of last Thursday at a public meeting. The way things usually work is if they need more money, there is always some money around because some items just do not get spent on time, but they did not address it any further.

Co-Chairperson Harrison inquired if it was the Executive Committee that he went to.

Mr. Walters responded yes he went to the Executive Committee of the Legislature that was the best one to make the pitch at because they could have discussed it if they wanted.

Mr. Burckard thanked Mr. Walters for doing that on their behalf.

Mr. Liblick stated that they would have to notify the new Legislature.

Co-Chairperson Harrison stated that she would suggest that we stop this discussion now and move along in the agenda with Mr. Yasgur if that is okay with everyone.

Everyone agreed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Staggered Terms Referendum:

Samuel Yasgur, Esq., County Attorney stated that last month he was contacted to find out if this Commission recommends staggered terms for the County Legislature and the Legislature wishes to consider staggered terms, there would have to be either a permissive or a mandatory referendum. If the Commission makes a recommendation to the Legislature to make a change to the County Charter or Code, they do that in the form of a local law. That local law would not be effective for 60 days, under state law, that local law could be challenged to what is known as a referendum. This is where the local law gets put before all the voters of the County and the voters are asked, in effect, the second guess the Legislature if they want that local law or they don't want that local law. He continued to state that there are two types of referendums, one is known as a permissive referendum and the other is known as mandatory, state law governs both. They will find the provisions for this particular issue in paragraph 34-sub paragraph 4 of the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law. Municipal Home Rule Law has two articles that deal with referendums, article 3 and article 4, most people automatically go to article 3 and that article does not apply to Sullivan County. Article 4 of the Municipal Home Rule Law pertains only to Charter counties of which we are one. The rules for referendum are different for Charter counties than they are for non-charter counties. The irony of this question is that it could be either. What the Municipal Home Rule Law says is if they are adopting a particular type of local law or charter law, the County board has the right to adopt that local law to mandate a referendum. Therefore, the County board itself could by-pass the entire permissive referendum provisions and mandate that there be a referendum. If the County board does not do that then what happens with this type of local law, the electors of the county are given 60 days to petition the county board to hold a referendum. That petition must be signed by a number of people equal to or greater than 5% of the people in the county who voted for governor at the last gubernatorial election. Therefore, people would walk around with petitions and get signatures and they would be added up to see, which signatures are valid and if there are a number of valid signatures that are equal to at least 5% of the people in the entire county who voted for governor then they will have a referendum. Sub-paragraph 4 essential says that after the adoption of a county charter by a county no charter law or local law which in its application to such county either abolishes or creates an elective county office, changes the voting or veto power or the method of removing an elected county office, changes the form of composition of the board of supervisors (when they used board of supervisors in the law it means legislature). If it deals with any of those topics than one of two things, if the county legislature says there shall be a referendum, now you have a mandatory referendum and they cannot avoid that. That has to take place at the next general election not less than 60 days afterwards. If the county board does not say that but they wind up during that 60-day hiatus period

with a petition signed by at least 5% of people in the county who voted for governor in the last gubernatorial election, we are going to have a permissive referendum at the next general election, not less than 60 days after, that's the mechanics. It gets a little technical and a little bit complicated, the bottom line is because of the way that this is written the issue with a referendum does not have to become very important in the Commissions discussion, he suggested. However, the Commission does it, the county board will have the right to mandate it or it could be held as a result of a petition, neither of those things will the Commission have control over. Every time there is a local law to amend the county code or the county charter, one of the things that his office does is take a careful look at it to see if it is subject to either a permissive or mandatory referendum and you are usually not going to know until that local law is finally drafted and the provisions are all down precisely because it depends on exactly what the law says.

Mr. Altman inquired if they have ways or means to get from whomever a list of who voted in that gubernatorial election.

Mr. Yasgur stated that the real issue is the number not the people.

Mr. Altman stated that some people will not remember if they voted or not.

Mr. Yasgur stated no it does not make any difference if you did vote in the last gubernatorial election they only need the number. So if the number of the people that voted in the last gubernatorial election say 20,000 you take 5% of that number.

The minutes should reflect that Mr. Harding entered the meeting at this time.

Mr. Altman stated that Mr. Yasgur is the County Attorney; he inquired who the Commission's attorney is.

Mr. Yasgur stated he does not know that they have one.

Mr. Altman stated that if it is Mr. Yasgur he feels that there is a bit of a conflict.

Mr. Burckard stated that generally the County Attorney as they have in the past is the general advisor to the Charter Commission because he is the general advisor to the County government since there is not an Executive that has his own counsel. If a question arises where Mr. Yasgur is going to wind up in a conflict with the answer, he will tell you that and then we would go to the outside for counsel.

Mr. Yasgur stated that he does not vote on this commission, make recommendations to this commission and he does not have a position with respect to recommendations other than the ones that they have asked him about involving his own department. It is highly unlikely that there would be a conflict but conflict is the first thing that he always looks for when he is given an assignment and if there is one he would tell them immediately.

Mr. Altman stated that they may have to find someone that has expertise in writing the thing that he is talking about.

Mr. Yasgur stated that he doubts that they are going to find a plethora of them, it is not a very usual thing that you wind up with a legislature created with everyone that runs at the same time and then they change that form.

Mr. Burckard stated if they go to staggered terms, they are not eliminating an elected official we are changing the composition of the term for one shot and then it will go back. He inquired if this same article applies if this Charter Commission recommends that they do eliminate an elected official would it be then mandatory at that point.

Mr. Yasgur stated that the language is the same for all those criteria. If the County Legislature does not make it mandatory, it's permissive. Every one of the criteria that he read applies to all them.

Mr. Liblick inquired if Mr. Yasgur is stating that a County Executive could be permissive and not mandatory.

Mr. Yasgur stated that the way this is written, yes.

Mr. Burckard stated that the Legislature may want to get itself off the hot seat by making it mandatory and let the public resolve the issue.

Mr. Yasgur stated yes. There is a third way to the law that he did not read and that was that the State legislature can mandate a referendum with respect to a local charter law. The word Legislature in the law means State Legislature not local Legislature.

Mr. Burckard inquired if this Article 4 also controls the petition approach, if this Charter chooses that approach to get something on the ballot that the County Legislature may not agree to put on.

Mr. Yasgur stated that it is not this article no; he thinks what he is referring to is the Charter itself. He will need to go back and re-read it.

Mr. Liblick inquired if they would have to state they want to do the staggered terms and also how you are going to do the staggered terms.

Mr. Yasgur stated if you are going to recommend that the County board do something, he would assume that you are going to recommend the mechanics. They can say that they strongly recommend to the County board that they go to staggered terms and then leave it up to the board to figure out how they are going to do it. At some point, the Local Law is going to have to set forth those mechanics. The minute it sets forth those mechanics, it then becomes subject to subparagraph 4.

Mr. Liblick state that they a long time ago before they became the Charter, when they were looking at the Executive, they figured it would be about 1,500-2,000 signatures, it may not be that many.

There was a brief discussion regarding how many voters were in the last gubernatorial election and they thought around 23,000-24,000.

Mr. Yasgur stated that if everyone remembers about 3 years ago when the board changed from firing a County Manager from a super majority to only a majority, that was subject to a permissive referendum and it failed to get sufficient signatures. The number of signatures needed was somewhere in the neighborhood of 1,200-1,500 if he remembers correctly. It is not a humungous number.

Mr. Burckard stated that they have no idea what will happen down the road but when Mr. Yasgur gets a chance if he could look to see, if this commission chooses, because it is forced into it, which has never

happened here before, if they choose to use the petition root to get something on the ballot whether that article applies and if it is 5%.

Mr. Yasgur stated that he will look that up.

Co-Chairperson Harrison stated that if they were to go to a mandatory vote, she inquired would it be one vote to go to staggered terms and a second vote in the same election for the type of terms. The school districts will separate the votes, not to confuse the issue so not one get voted in and one gets voted down.

Mr. Burckard stated that if they are going to vote on it and the methodology is not attached to it they would not know if they were going to agree with it or not. There is a huge difference going in with 4 than going in with 6.

Mr. Yasgur stated that he would doubt that they would ever get Legislators to propose a local law for staggered terms that does not also contain the methodology because the methodology is a critical piece. That first vote becomes critical, he is sure that they are not going to be able to get a local law that has the methodology. They are either going to affect 4 people or 5 people and those people are either going to end up with shorter terms or longer terms.

Mr. Altman stated they also talk about term limits so it could be written in a way that the one who gets the short end of the stick gets a longer-term limit.

Mr. Richardson stated that he would not recommend tying those into one. There are going to be a lot of issues with that and they will not get that passed.

Co-Chairperson Harrison stated that they will also have to identify.

Mr. Burckard stated that they will not have to identify the districts but will have to identify if it is random sample, which is probably going to make some sense. They have to say how they are going to go about it.

Mr. Altman stated that he did not mean to put the two together but the term limits could include, if that Legislator got a short stick his term limit would be extended.

Mr. Walters left the meeting at this time.

The Charter Commission thanked Mr. Yasgur.

Alison Horan, Chief of Staff for Assemblywoman Gunther, 100th Assembly District:

Co-Chairperson Harrison introduce Allison Horan, Chief of Staff to Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther who could not make it today, she had a change in plans this morning.

Mr. Horan stated that she is thrilled to be here, she loves the mechanics of government. Their Assembly district is the vast majority of Sullivan and a smaller portion of Orange, population wise she thinks it is just about 50/50 but the land mass is concentrated or per capita is greater in Orange. The question that Co-Chairperson Harrison and Mr. Burckard had for her was how do they, with Orange having a County Executive and Sullivan having a County Legislature, how do they interact with those two differently. She thinks the

answer is substantially they do not. They reach out in Sullivan to the County Manager a lot, they have a very good relationship with both and the departments within both counties. If something comes to their office that is a general county issue, they will reach out to the County Manager or the Chairman of the Legislature. A lot of times, like during the issues with HEAP last year, they would reach out directly to the Department of Family Services until they did not and then we went through the Executive Assistant to the County Manager to get to everything. In Orange County it is much the same, the issues that they deal with will go directly to the departments but the County Executive's office knows that they are doing it and they had to have that conversation when Executive Neuhaus came in which was how does he want us to handle these interactions with the county and what is he comfortable with. Other colleagues that she has that deal with other counties that the County Executive gives them a single point of entry into the county and they can facilitate getting a faster answer just because of the size and the scope of government they can facilitate them getting an answer if it comes through them but they have a single point of contact. It is a similar setup that they have with the state agencies where they have a single point of contact within that agency. The Department of Health is a prime example; there are 1,000 different offices within the Department of Health so it is easier for them to go to one person. In dealing with the counties, they are great relationships and very fluid relationships in both counties. The thing they do is deal directly with the municipalities more than dealing with the county, more true in Orange than in Sullivan. She then stated that she is happy to answer any questions that they may have.

Mr. Liblick inquired when they are sitting in Albany and the Governor is there and they are announcing the County Executives and there is a certain prestige that goes along with an elected official as opposed to a Legislative leader, so he wanted to know from Assemblywoman Gunther what her perspective is of that.

Ms. Horan stated that she thinks locally they can look at that, the thing that springs to mind for her is the Pattern for Progress, every year they have the County Executives and it is always the County Executives and the Chairman from Sullivan County. It's not the same position and she thinks Mr. Liblick is referencing the Regional Economic Development.

Mr. Liblick stated that he is not only referencing, he was watching when they were announcing something with the Governor and when everyone was being announced, there was no one announced from Sullivan.

Ms. Horan stated that despite the fact that the Chairman from Sullivan was there and it happened last week at the Regional Economic Development council.

Mr. Liblick stated that when you look at Sullivan from Albany's point of view, would they take us more seriously with an elected County Executive opposed to a position appointed by the Legislature which is political in a sense because it whoever is in control of the Legislature, that who that person is the Chair.

Ms. Horan stated right and they are elected by their colleagues who are elected by the people. Presumably, the people who elected the Chair were elected by the people. She does understand Mr. Liblick's point and she can say that Sullivan is taken very seriously because Sullivan County is represented very well on different levels. Certainly, between Assemblywoman Gunther and Senator Bonacic there is no shortage of voice for Sullivan County in Albany. She does not know that it would be true to say that if Sullivan County had a County Executive that they would be taken more seriously, she doesn't know that to be true and she doesn't know that it would be false.

Mr. Burckard inquired with Assemblywoman Gunther working with Sullivan County does Ms. Horan think that Assemblywoman Gunther's opinion is that this form of government that we have with a County Legislature and a County Manager, is this an appropriate form for this county at this point in time.

Mr. Horan stated that she thinks that the Assemblywoman would say that the quality of government is not determined by the make-up of the constitution of the government so much as the people who are acting in it. She then stated that they have great relationships with everyone in both of the counties. No one benefits from a bad relationship it doesn't serve constituents well, and everyone is ultimately serving the same constituents and it is a lot easier to do that if everyone is rowing in the same direction. Are there disagreements sometimes, sure, but you talk about the disagreements and come to a consensus or agree to disagree and move on to the next thing.

Mr. Altman stated that it was a very politically correct answer.

Ms. Horan stated that it is truthful too.

Mr. Burckard inquired that there is a follow-up to that question and it is the balance of the Legislature and County Manager where it should be.

Ms. Horan said that it is a different question and she thinks that a lot of that is also determined by the people in all of the offices.

Mr. Altman stated that the difference is what Mr. Burckard is describing is that one guy can be fired and the other one can't.

Mr. Liblick stated that this is what Mr. Yasgur was referring to because permissive referendum took away 5 votes to 6 votes and the terminology is something that this new Legislature is not aware of that they have to immediately within 90 days for a County Attorney and County Manager.

Mr. Burckard stated that one of the things that they could when you look at Sullivan is to strengthen the County Manager significantly. They would never get to where an Executive could be but they could make the County Manager stronger and he would have asked Assemblywoman Gunther if she was here, if in that concept if she thought that it would be easier to work with the government or be more efficient in its operation. Weaken the Legislature and strengthen the Manager so he is more like a CEO.

Ms. Horan stated that in terms of their interaction with them they make the assumption that the County Manager is the one who is managing the county; therefore, they interact with him appropriately. In a way that is not entirely just similar to the way they would interact with the Executive of Orange, it is more of a day-to-day management thing. A lot of it is largely dependent on who is in that position, it is an appointed position, there is always the risk in any role where that person could have issues where their performance changes substantially, and they could have a family crisis that will draw their attention. There are any number of factors, that you cannot control, that is why you have department heads.

Mr. Richardson inquired if there are frequent times when they go to the County Manager and he says I cannot do that; I cannot tell you that you have to go to the Legislature or the Chairman for an actual item.

Ms. Horan stated no, she does not think so a lot of the times it is more a technical question where it may be told to ask the Commissioner of Public Works as opposed to the policy end with the Legislature.

Mr. Liblick inquired if politically wouldn't you go to an elected Chairman that you would be connected with for something that you would like done and phrase it in a different way than you would as a County Manager. Doesn't she view the positions as being different in the eyes of an elected official.

Ms. Horan stated that in the operation of their day-to-day office it is much more governmental than it is political, they don't play politics with the government, it is not appropriate to do it. It is probably not to most efficient or effective way to do things. New York is a home-rule state so the policies that the county sets forth are the policies that the county sets forth and Aileen is the Assemblywoman of the 100th Assembly District not the Assemblywoman of the Sullivan County Legislature.

Mr. Liblick inquired isn't it different though when you are not on the staff level but on the political level.

Ms. Horan stated that is not a fair question though, they wanted to know how their office interacts with government.

Mr. Liblick stated that they also want to know how an official interacts with government and how an elected official would approach a government on possibly a political level or a non-political level. If there is a message in Albany, then they try to rally their political troops.

Ms. Horan stated that if there is a message in Albany it does not matter if the person is a Republican, Democrat, Green, Purple, Independence, Working Families, there is work that needs to be done on a governmental level it does not make a difference what party that person belongs to. If an elected official is approaching a government, then that elected official is approaching a government as a governmental official in their own capacity. Their feelings are that politics do not play a role in that, it is government to government. They have a Republican County Executive in Orange County and they approach him the same way they would approach the Democratic Chairman of the Legislature.

Co-Chairperson Harrison thanked Ms. Horan for coming.

Mr. Altman stated that he would ask that if they get into a situation where if the Sheriff cannot make it to a meeting that he does not send the guy that runs the jail.

Mr. Richardson stated that he did confirm with the Sheriff.

Mr. Altman stated he is not talking about the Sheriff.

Mr. Liblick stated that he is saying that if they have Aileen, they want to ask Aileen the questions and she should be here.

Co-Chairperson Harrison stated that she called last week to confirm and she called this morning and this morning was when she learned of the change.

Mr. Altman stated that humbly he would say that they should have rescheduled her.

Co-Chairperson Harrison stated that they certainly can.

Mr. Liblick stated that he fully agrees.

Daniel L. Briggs, Sullivan County Clerk

Mr. Briggs stated that he is in a unique position having served in three of the different county positions, County Treasurer, County Manager and currently County Clerk. He also had the advantage of being interviewed by the original Charter Commission so he does have insight there. He stated that Co-Chairperson Harrison and he had an interesting conversation the other day about how government has evolved over the years in his perspective. He stated that he had the opportunity and pleasure of serving as County Treasurer from 1983-2000 and there have been a lot of changes. Initially the term of office for County Treasurer was three years it has been changed through the state legislature to a four-year term. They ran into some major obstacles over those years; one of those was that they ran into a \$10-million-dollar deficit. They were in jeopardy of losing their credit rating, they were not only facing the rating agencies but they were also appearing in front of the insurance companies making sure that any of their debt was insured. Part of that problem was they used to have a redemption period of five years to pay taxes and was a large contributing factor to their debt. It has since been accelerated and is now 2 years, which has helped them out. Overstating revenues was also a problem. County Treasurer's Office used to serve as payroll, at one point, there were two separate entities to the County, and DPW ran as a separate entity from the rest of the county with separate tax id numbers. Approximately, 2000-2005 he had the honor of serving as the County Manager, what is unique is that for years, he ran under the Republican label and he was appointed by a Democratic controlled Legislature, he was also dismissed during which time there was a major fire and a major theft within the County. He succeeded Jonathan Drapkin who was the successor to Lynda Green, the reason why he is bringing this up is because Lynda Green was originally brought on to be a cut and burn type individual. She was to restore the credit worthiness of the County and she did that. Jonathan Drapkin was brought on to create new programs, be innovative and creative, he believes he was quite successful in that. What he attempted to do was to continue that and make it level. After 2006-2007, he was an Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Housing and Community Renewal for the State of New York. He was in the Pataki administration and lost that position when Elliot Spitzer was elected although he was quite gracious, he kept him on for a number of months, which was unheard of. 2008-present he has had the good fortune of serving as your County Clerk.

Mr. Burckard stated that Mr. Briggs has a perspective that almost no one else does to be an elected official as well as the appointed County Manager and the transition going from the Board of Supervisors to the now County Legislature and the Clerk up until now. He inquired as Mr. Briggs sits and looks at the present form of government do you feel that the present form of government is serving this county at this point in time well.

Mr. Briggs state that he was a proponent of bringing forth the Legislature instead of the Board of Supervisors and what brought that about was there were a number of issues that three or four supervisors could get together with weighted voting and control every single shot and the direction of the county. Having sat through this form of government he would honestly say that he would go back to the Board of Supervisors. He has found that the accountability at the local level is more so. They would have to change the weighted voting they would have to come to some sort of variation.

Legislator Edwards inquired if Mr. Briggs could expound upon what he meant by more accountability in that context.

Mr. Briggs stated that out of necessity if nothing else, Supervisors attending county business had to go back to their towns and what they did, why they did it and be informed of those issues.

Mr. Burckard inquired if Mr. Briggs feels that this government lacks efficiency or is inefficient in its present operations.

Mr. Briggs stated that he feels it is still evolving. He thought Ms. Horan did a nice job in answering the question, a lot of it comes down to the people who are in the particular positions.

Mr. Burckard inquired if Mr. Briggs would feel more comfortable with the form if they had a stronger CEO by one means or another.

Mr. Briggs stated that having served as County Manager he would differ a little from what he heard this evening; he thinks that while you serve at the pleasure of the Legislature you are certainly cognize of their feelings, that is your job security. In theory the direction or the policy is to be set by the Legislature and then implemented, in his opinion, by the County Manager, it doesn't always happen that way.

Co-Chairperson Harrison stated that there are two incentives out of Mr. Briggs office and she inquired where they came from. One is the maintaining 12% in Sullivan County of the filing fees if they do their motor vehicles.

Mr. Briggs stated that the 12.7% was an arrangement made with the Department of Motor Vehicles. He stated that he wants everyone to understand that they are merely agents for the State of New York. Policy does not originate at the local level; it comes from New York State itself and the Department of Motor Vehicles. They may disagree with Albany but nonetheless they are obligated to stay the line on that. They are given very little discretion and this is post 9/11. The strength of Homeland Security and the influence that they have on motor vehicles cannot be stressed enough. Sales tax also has an influence on Motor Vehicles. There are a number of different agencies.

Co-Chairperson Harrison stated that the County Clerk also offered a Veterans discount that they promote.

Mr. Briggs stated yes they do and that is a separate thing. The 12.7% is something that they are negotiating through NYSAC as well as the statewide to increase. As more and more people are going to the internet to conduct their transactions, they are losing a lot of traffic locally. The result of that is they are getting the complications and the problems. Someone who cannot do their transaction on the internet is being forced to go to them.

Co-Chairperson Harrison inquired if that initiative went out the municipalities.

Mr. Briggs stated no, what he did was through public service announcements; it has been in place for quite some time now. It is only recently that the marketing has stepped up.

Mr. Altman stated that if he went on the internet to renew a registration and he paid with a credit card the county gets nothing.

Mr. Briggs stated correct. The negotiations that are going on right now is to increase that 12.7% upwards to about 20%. They try to appease them by giving them a small percentage once that threshold has been met on the internet traffic.

Mr. Richardson stated that when Mr. Briggs made mention that he would like to go back to the Board of Supervisors and he made mention of the response on the local level and they have a manager who is insulated from the public from the Legislature. He inquired if he could then make an argument that a County Executive would be a better situation. Someone who has been elected by the people and has to answer to the people.

Mr. Briggs stated of course that argument can be made and he thinks that it is being made here, whether or not it will be the prevailing argument or not, he does not know.

Mr. Burckard stated that Mr. Briggs made mention that he is not happy with what comes down from Albany. He inquired if Mr. Briggs thinks that this county is as effective as it used to be, and active as it used to be at lobbying in Albany.

Mr. Briggs stated that it all depends on NYSAC who is the lobbying arm.

Mr. Burckard stated that they used to be very active in Albany and lobbying for legislature. My perception is that right now this county is not as active as it used to be with its personnel in Albany that it could be.

Mr. Briggs stated that he thinks Mr. Burckard is correct, but the time is not there as much. Mr. Burckard was there a number of years and they were set in their places and respected the state on the department level.

Mr. Altman stated that he has never run for election and does not plan on it. He looks at a County Manager, the Legislature hires him and usually that fellow has an education in that field but the elected on doesn't.

Mr. Briggs stated yes, he would use himself as an example, to run for County Clerk you only need one more vote than your opponent and a pulse.

Mr. Altman stated that Mr. Briggs did allude that as County Manager, he knew who had the power to keep your job.

Mr. Briggs stated sure, you had nine individuals with an agenda but you knew at any given time, you had to satisfy five.

Mr. Liblick stated that he will even go further, it was political and reprehensible the way Mr. Briggs was being treated and the way he was fired. It was wrong. An example of why he feels that Albany does not look at Sullivan as having leadership, the casino issue. We were slated for two casinos and all of a sudden, we were getting one casino in our zone and then after the vote, Binghamton gets a casino there, Tioga Downs. That same casino developer announced last week that there is going to be a referendum at the Meadowlands; he owns the property, and open a hard rock casino there. Our county is quiet; he feels if we had, a County Executive that person would be screaming in the public saying we need another casino. Instead, we are sitting around here looking at one casino saying our problems are going to be solved.

Mr. Altman stated that he thinks that one of the differences is the County Manager is a full-time position and the Legislators are part-time. If the Legislators were full-time then they might have lobbied.

Mr. Liblick stated that the problem that they have is far deeper, it has to do with an IDA, it has to do with deals, and it has to do with tax abatements and who is in control of them. Also, how people are elected on the Legislature and how they are persuaded to vote on certain agenda items. He honestly believes that the Grossinger's deal was stopped. Mr. McPhillips sits as a board member and he will tell you the same thing. There was no yelling or screaming that they should have had two, not the wait and see attitude.

Mr. Altman stated that he also thinks it has to do with personalities. Leon Greenberg would always show leadership and aggression and got some things done. Did he hurt some people, yes, but he had that ability and it is a rare thing.

Mr. Liblick stated so did Tony Cellini.

Mrs. Edwards stated that there was something that Mr. Briggs said in regards to the way the Legislature sets policy and the Manager. Over the last four years, she has been a first-term Legislator and is coming to an end. She has seen numerous that were passed by a majority of the board but there was not the will among department heads to carry those resolutions out in terms of a change in policy direction. One example is a majority voted to move part of the staff of the Center for Workforce Development up to Liberty because of the gap between the time people get benefits and are supposed to be actively seeking for work. With the geographical location in Monticello the volume was just something that a bit shocking. So, that is an example to her and to Mr. Briggs having seen that from a different perspective over the last four years as resolutions would be passed and there was no willpower to fulfill those resolutions. She asked Mr. Briggs to address that from his perspective of how he sees that in the context of the type of government that we have.

Mr. Briggs stated that the County Manager answers to the Legislature, the Legislature is the employer.

The commission then thanked Mr. Briggs for coming and speaking to them.

Open Discussion Regarding the Presenters:

Co-Chairperson Harrison opened the floor to the Commission to have a discussion regarding the presenters that they had this evening.

Co-Chairperson Harrison stated that one of the things that she is still a little confused about is that when they go to a referendum on this, she thinks if they wrote the law that they have staggered terms 4/5 then they would have to identify also which four.

Mr. Altman stated no they would have to identify a methodology; one way would be to draw a straw.

Co-Chairperson Harrison stated that she is not so sure about that.

Mr. McPhillips stated that it was not any different with Neversink; they had an option to be a dry town with the exception of in store sales of alcohol or a referendum.

Co-Chairperson Harrison stated that is what she is saying, they are going to have to have two; identifying the ones that are going four and the ones that are going five.

Mr. Liblick stated that they should check with NYSAC on that.

Mr. Harding stated Mamakating just did the same thing, if those two had not passed together it would have created an interesting situation but they were two separate actions. He does not know that it is appropriate for what they are talking about but that is the method that they used.

Co-Chairperson Harrison stated that they do have nine legislators and each one is a different position voted on and elected by a different group of people.

Mr. Burckard stated what they put out to the public if a referendum is required which they do not know that it would be because they want staggered terms that was what they requested. So, they may not mandate a referendum, they have to have in there the methodology by which they would achieve it and the timing. He then stated that 4/5 is something that he thinks they all agree on, if they go to a vote then it would be applicable in the next general election, 4 years from now, the public would be voting on. They are going to have four districts randomly selected and they can put how the random selection is going to be accomplished so there is no question about that. Then those four that are randomly selected by this methodology would be running for a two-year term and then be going back to their four-year term, which will be spelled out very specifically and that is what the County Attorney's Office or some other form would create exactly what they are going to put out there to the public. He does not believe that they can put in there which of the four it is going to be because they would have to do the random selection prior to the time that the vote authorized it to be done, that would have the cart ahead of the horse.

Mr. Altman stated that is why he says to have the other thing as a separate referendum on the term limits. That the Legislator from the first one who only gets two years and if they come up with let's say a 12-year term limit that guy gets 14 years.

Mr. Harding stated that Mamakating did it suddenly though, they put the wards in two years from now so even though people were running for four-year terms were in effect the council people were running for a four-year term, it ends in two years when a new ward comes in because they will be in districts.

Mr. Altman stated that was why he asked Mr. Yasgur who was going to write this.

Mr. Liblick stated that Mr. Yasgur was looking at six-year, he was talking 6 and 4.

Mr. Burckard stated that you can do it either way but six-year is never going to fly.

Mr. Harding stated that having served four two-year terms, after the organizational meeting, you can put your Republican/Democrat label aside for a period of time as Ms. Horan was saying. If you have to run again in 10 or 11 months all of a sudden, you are wearing that label again.

Mr. Altman stated that he finds it very problematic with the United States Congress because once you get elected you have to start running again.

Mr. Harding stated that he doesn't like two-year terms, maybe three or four.

Mr. Liblick stated that he was talking with two new legislators and they asked him about how he would do this. I said you may have to roll the dice and pick it that way and they said that's a good idea.

Mr. Burckard stated in the reality of Ms. Horan's comment with regards to things being done on the law, technicalities, etc. applies in those scenarios where your amending existing statute for a specific purpose. You get into the bigger picture with philosophical questions, and their politics is a basic part of what is going on and whom your elected representatives are and what party they are, what power is in the county. Who the incumbent power is in Albany makes a huge difference. If you look back at this from their point, they have been to a certain extent lucky, like it or not, that the Republicans have controlled one house and the Democrats the other because the reality of that scenario has helped to protect Upstate New York to keep more money up here than what they ever would have had, if they were all Democrat. There has always been a huge fear even when I was here way back when in the beginning, one of the things that they did through NYSAC was to make the people understand the need of the balance. If they lose the balance, they could be in really big trouble. The politics is there and you cannot get around it. There are huge interplays that go on between counties of who has the power, who is going to get the money and who is going to get the interstate. They had a powerhouse for years in Binghamton and he held off building an interstate from Binghamton to Albany. What did it take to get that accomplished. That was one of the things that helped to protect Upstate New York and that is why there is a huge concern in Albany about losing the Senate and what will ultimately happen.

Co-Chairperson Harrison inquired if anyone had any comments about Mr. Briggs presentation.

Mr. Altman stated that he alluded to what everyone has been saying that they talked to, he stated that when he was County Manager he was conscience of losing his job and every one of them are. If we can figure out a way that it is harder for the Legislature to fire a manager, they still could but it would be hard.

Mr. Burckard stated that is why he keeps asking about making the manager more powerful. Mr. Briggs surprised him when he mentioned about going back to a Board of Supervisors. If you step back that is an indictment on the present system as it stands today, how its functioning and operating.

Mr. McPhillips stated that could be dictated by the position that he holds now though versus the position that he held when there was the Board of Supervisors. He could say that he wants to go back to that because of the position that he held at that time. He has no idea how that is as a County Clerk.

Mr. Liblick stated that Mr. Briggs is looking at it as a political position of what he went through with politics.

Mr. McPhillips stated that in his mind he may want to go back to the Board of Supervisors because in his position when it was a Board of Supervisors, it was more beneficial to him.

Mr. Altman stated that he heard something quite different, he heard him say that the Supervisor at the time, he had to answer to the councilman of the towns as to what he was doing at the County level, but today the Legislature does not have to answer to the towns.

Mr. Liblick stated that Mr. Briggs was looking at it as his position as a political position, he does not think that he was answering us as a County Clerk position. He was looking back as someone who was a County Manager and having been involved with politics in Sullivan County and knows the politics and the players of who has been in the Legislature. Going back to his relationship with Leni Binder when she was there, Chris Cunningham, Kathy LaBuda, Scott Samuelson to Jonathan Rouis and he has dealt with every one of them. One of the things the County Clerk does and so does the County Treasurer is they go to every meeting of the

Legislature and they see what is going on. The County Clerk may not be as outspoken about it as maybe the County Clerk is but the County Treasurer has had some politics done to her when Ira Cohen passed away. It is a dirty field in there.

Mr. Harding stated that under the current system the Legislators represent more than one town and those towns can be diametrically opposed to how they want to rule their town and how they want it structured. If we are talking about towns having home rule than we have somewhat blurred those lines by having Legislative districts crossing town lines.

Mr. Altman stated that is why he personally thinks there should be more than nine Legislators. If there is let us say 12 each one has a smaller district with fewer towns in it.

Co-Chairperson Harrison stated that they all have the same number of voters.

Mr. Burckard stated that some of that is in what he previously passed out to the members, which was a copy of the February 5, 2007, Charter Revision Commission Minutes (please see attached). He stated that one of the points that is in the minutes is does the Legislature represent the towns. The answer is absolutely not, the Legislator represents 8,000 people, which is there district, period.

Mr. Altman stated that some of them are thinking that the manager should have a little bit more power or the Legislature should have a little less. He is saying that if they do a shift the town has a little bit more input than it does now. If they had more Legislators, they would have less towns and the towns would have more influence on that Legislator.

Mr. Liblick stated that he thinks they need a little more clarification. For example, when Cora Edwards was there she was there for Liberty and she was there for Fallsburg, she represented the constituents from both areas and it worked well with them.

Mr. Altman stated that is two big towns that might have been at times opposed to each other and she was stuck in the middle.

Mr. Liblick stated that he has not really seen towns being opposed to other towns on issues that the Legislature has really voted on.

Legislator Edwards stated that getting back to what Mr. Burckard stated earlier that she agrees with is that you are representing the people who live in that district and I was lucky to have a very good relationship with each of the members of council. Once of the things where she thinks is a void is that when the redistricting took place those meetings were not really open. There were a couple of meetings with the towns to talk about redistricting, the consultants hired were supposed to make eight visits to the towns and he only made two. What ended up happening with this void is that all the river towns did not like they had anyone representing them.

Mr. Altman stated that he can imagine that those river towns have a bigger land area for the Legislator. If there were more Legislators, there might be one just for the river towns.

Mr. Burckard stated no that would never work, one-man one vote.

Co-Chairperson Harrison stated right now in her district, they only have to win one town, they do not have to win Highland, Tusten or Cocheton and not even all of Bethel, they just have to win the majority of the

district and you have won. She continued by saying that the reason why she asked Mr. Briggs about the initiative with the Department of Motor Vehicle is to highlight the fact that they are not capitalizing on the different divisions, there does not seem to be any promotion at all on this. Our County Legislature or government is not promoting it. They get it mailed to them and they think they will just do it online and make it easy for them.

Mr. Liblick stated that they promoted it when it first came out.

Mr. McPhillips stated that he is in no different of a boat than the college. The college has to pay when some county resident goes to another community college. They do not explain that.

Mr. Burckard stated that the County pays not the college.

Mr. McPhillips stated that the county pays for a loss of a student to another county, they do not express that to high schools.

Mr. Liblick stated that the issue that they should look into is now they have all these new people that registered in Fallsburg that swayed an election so I guess now we have to pay for their college now.

Co-Chairperson Harrison stated that her point is that how do they get the divisions more communication, what is really lacking. Is it the Legislature or the Manager position, would that revenue stream be picked up if they had a County Executive.

Mr. Burckard stated that it could be it depends on how they run the show.

County Treasurer Buck stated that they have to think about this, it is not a Sullivan County thing, it is all the counties, and everyone has been saying the same thing. It is out there. The press should pick it up. What are they going to do send a letter out to everyone.

Co-Chairperson Harrison stated that is part of being a CEO.

Mr. Liblick stated that Michelle Huck does that, she sends out all these press releases about these types of initiatives.

Mr. Altman stated that if they would have been able to talk to Assemblywoman Gunther maybe they could have suggested that there be an education piece with the DMV renewals that get mailed as to where the money goes when you register.

Co-Chairperson Harrison stated that is something that should have been picked up by a position in our government that is what I am saying. It should not be something that someone on this Commission identified.

Mr. Altman stated yes but he thinks it has to be a statewide thing as well. If we put up billboards here in Sullivan County, then all the other counties are going to put up billboards too.

Mr. Burckard stated that the State DOT is never going to allow that because it takes money away from the State.

Mr. Liblick stated that the Assemblywoman could put it in her newsletter.

Co-Chairperson Harrison stated that she is not trying to suggest that this is something that we need to work on; I am just saying that this is an example of something that is lacking as a result of not having the political savvy that the old crew had.

Mr. Liblick stated that it is not only that they are lacking anyone out there looking to push media wise a county. You cannot expect Michelle to sit there to work in the office and issue the press releases as well. There are no public relations in this county, they have invested no money. Four years ago when the new Legislature was getting elected, they were talking to him. They wanted to create a position to do that and Kathy LaBuda was the one who said we do not have to spend money on that. The vision is not there that in order to make this county count out there on the state level and lobby out there and for us to matter in the city, they have to have some sort of public relations and marketing of the county not just the planning department. You have to be able to sell the product; we are not selling a product here. The only product, when Jim Farrell was here last month, we had the product of people saying come to Sullivan County because you can come and get on welfare. So that product and marketing was achieved. The people that sit in here and represent our county are not saying we have to market our county and part of marketing the county is going out there and saying the message. That is something that maybe we have to look into and say why are not we marketing the county.

Mr. McPhillips stated that in Liberty, we put \$50,000 to market themselves because we felt no one was doing it, so if no one was doing it then they needed to do it themselves. They hired a marketing firm for Liberty to fix the website, put out a magazine, what town owns a mountain, they have Walnut Mountain. Things like that to put them on the map. He understands what Mr. Liblick is saying, more of a CEO would be able to do that. It is the same thing with the college; he understands that there is a President of the college but without having the people understand where the money is going that money is being lost. He continued by stating that he said something to Karin, she came and did a presentation on the Healthy Living; they are trying to change the make-up of the college. He asked her why they are not pushing to get more of the local schools and she said that they get a lot of money from New York City, and that is the push. He said that they are not making money because they are losing it on the backside for paying for this kids that do not go there, then they are losing their crop of kids, youthful education with people that can actually establish themselves in the county and make it a place great again.

Mr. Burckard stated that there is more to it that is one of the cans of worms that people do not want to take the top off of and there is reason. Look at the map, if the people in Fremont, Callicoon, Delaware and Cocheton were really fully cognoscente their kids for the most part for all kinds of reasons go to SUNY Sullivan. Where do you think the kids in Mamakating go, they go to Orange, the taxpayers up in the northwestern towns are paying the bill because this county has to pay Orange for those kids that go. They have no clue what is happening here.

Mr. Liblick stated that is why they need a County Executive.

County Treasurer Buck stated that the truth is that most people do not know that this county pays. Her office does a certificate of residency that you have to get if you go to a community college. They come in and scream at them because they make them prove that they are a resident of this county. I will get up and very calmly tell them that they will not do it, they will have to pay the full amount and the county will not have to pay it. They don't get what they are doing, except this nasty county is making them get a certificate. They

don't understand, and I make them understand that this county is paying half of your tuition and people don't get it.

Co-Chairperson Harrison inquired how long do they have to be a resident to be included as having a residency.

County Treasurer Buck stated that they have to prove that they have been here for over a year and in the last six months.

Mr. Liblick stated that this is the thing that they just had, they had all these people from NYC who voting in this past election in November and how are we not going to pay for their schooling and they are still getting funded by NYC. There is something not right here, if they were able to vote by absentee, they should have been voting by absentee to NYC and not vote here. He does not understand what is going on, someone should be saying that we now have to carry the burden of those 48 people who just voted and that's a fact. If they were able to vote in Sullivan County, they are now Sullivan County residents and we should be paying for these students.

Mr. Altman stated that it is easier to vet a college student than a voter.

Mr. Richardson stated that they don't want to lose sight of in an ideal world, you have a County Executive who wants to do all of this. There are a lot of County Executives that are incompetent, not a lot but some, so there is no guarantee if they create a County Executive it doesn't mean that they are going to do any of these great ideas around this table tonight.

Mr. Levinson stated or get an educated person.

Mr. Altman stated that they can have in his job description what he is supposed to do. I am all for him being able to be fired but not easily. I am talking about a County Manager, if it is in his job description to whatever they think he should do, he can be fired for not doing his job.

Co-Chairperson Harrison inquired if they think it would be beneficial for this group to read his contract of the County Manager to see what his stipulation were.

Mr. Altman and Mr. Liblick stated that they think that would be a good idea.

Mr. Altman stated on another subject he thinks that they should find out what the benefits packages are for the county employees and the elected officials. I want to raise the Legislators salary but cut the benefits.

Mr. Richardson stated that they can read the contract and the job description and that is fine but they have heard over and over again that the County Manager only needs to satisfy five people. What Legislator Edwards mentioned earlier, they have a had resolutions and the Legislature thinks it is a good idea, and there is no push maybe because five of those Legislators may have voted for it but they are really not in favor of it. So they do not push the County Manager to push this issue and it dies.

Mr. Liblick stated that what happened under Legislator Edwards term was that was the time when they bought out David Fanslau, he was let go, and it has to do with the package to buy him out. They should get that and compare what was changed because Legislator Steingart was filing an Article 78 because he didn't want it

to go from a 6 vote to a 5 vote and it reverted back to a 5 vote with a permissive referendum. So they should look at both what the Legislature did and how they changed that from the 6 vote to a 5 vote.

Co-Chairperson Harrison stated that in the Charter the County Manager needs to have a Masters or equivalent business.

Mr. Liblick stated that was thrown in and if he is not mistaken Mr. Briggs did not have the qualifications and the specifications for that, they did that deliberately for Mr. Briggs.

Co-Chairperson Harrison stated that in the Charter they can strengthen whatever needs to be strengthened to make the County Manager candidate much stronger and then you can make him more powerful.

Mr. McPhillips stated that here today they figured out that they are not getting the maximum of the 12.7% on motor vehicles, the revenue stream is not being utilized and the college is another one. Jim Farrell brought up the whole point about DFS and where that money was going. He thinks that whatever decision is made, he wants to make the right choice, once they can figure out financially how to better the county maybe the Legislative side of it is better operational because you are recouping those costs of running the county. To him on a financial viewpoint, it might not be that this type of setup is wrong because they are not maximizing the financial potential that they have here. Just sitting here in two weeks, it is two revenue streams that they are losing because there is no one looking.

Mr. Richardson stated that when Mr. Briggs was on the campaign trail he mentioned that issue repeatedly that DMV was losing if they did not register here. He just registered a couple of vehicles today and they sent it in because of that but he was tempted to go online and do it because it is easier. You can preach to your blue in the face but internet sales are blooming because it is easier.

Mr. Altman stated that they can print up envelopes and put them on the town clerks front counter addressed to the motor vehicles.

Co-Chairperson Harrison stated that she does not want anyone to get the perception that Mr. Briggs is not maximizing it to the best that he can but she doesn't believe that he the ability to do anything more and the Legislature certainly does or the power of the County Manager.

February 5, 2007 Charter Revision Commission Minutes:

Mr. Burckard stated that the last Charter after 10 months of meetings decided to bring in the Legislators for their meeting and they did that. He stated that the minutes are fascinating and enlighten. These minutes get into micro managing, County Executive, Legislators relationships with the department heads and the County Manager, staggered terms, term limits, full-time legislators and pay and how it should be setup. It talks about the size of the Legislature; everyone who spoke said it was too big they wanted it reduced. Rodney Gaebel was both a town supervisor and county legislator, he had backbone enough to admit what really went on and at this meeting, Chris Cunningham also admitted what really went on. One quote from Rodney Gaebel "the original move behind going to a Legislative form of government was to get representatives to represent the county and county government on county issues that was separate and apart from town issues. One of the issues to lay it right on the line, there were situations where one thought that some of the towns and at one point or another all of the towns, were balancing to a certain extend the town budgets on the back of the county. One of the major moves was to get independent Legislative people to serve as county representatives to eliminate that as an

issue.” The second most important reason that they did what they did was to fix this it is part and parcel with the bridges that got dumped onto the county to get out of their budget. Their power base was to reduce their town budgets and shift it to the County because that is what they ran on. One man and one vote, they would have lost that. I am vehemently opposed to this sharing sales tax until such time we get the towns hand out of the county taxpayer’s pocket, take back the bridges, clean up this shenanigan and then you have a level playing field and then you can sit down and discuss sharing sales taxes.

Mr. Altman stated that maybe it can be take the bridges back and they will give you a little sales tax.

Mr. Richardson stated that a little town like Cohecton could not afford to take any bridge back.

Mr. Burckard asked that if everyone has a chance to read the 2007 minutes maybe they can have a discussion on them at the January 20th meeting.

Mr. McPhillips stated that the it goes back to a financial thing; the assessed values in the towns are being pushed on the county backs also. There is no incentive for a town to knock a building down that is undesirable because there is an assessed value that is made up for the county. The town of Liberty’s budget is going to be based on their assessment there is no incentive to knock that building down because the Town of Liberty looks like crap because they are going to get that money from the county.

Mr. Richardson stated that this issue came up for discussion very recently, when Charlie Barbuti was at the town hall and Cohecton has a very active approval to get rid of dilapidated buildings, they have gotten rid of about 30 over the last few years, they are very serious about getting rid of those old buildings. They are not an asset to the towns.

Co-Chairperson Harrison asked Mr. Burckard for clarification about what was meant by balancing the town budgets on the backs of the county.

Mr. Burckard stated what they did because it was a supervisor form of government not only did they push the bridges onto the county. Not only did the county government and taxpayer had to pick up the cost of maintaining and taking care of the bridges, they got them off their back and out of their budgets and put them on the back of the county. Mr. Yasgur made the point standing in the room to all of us when he made his presentation about what they did. In addition to that they did all kinds of other things. Wherever they could figure out ways to shift costs out of their budget and put it in the counties, they did that, they ran their budgets in the towns that was where the power was. Instead of coming in here and making a county taxpayer and county government number one, so their decisions were based on what is best for the county, they made decisions of what was best for them in order to keep them going.

There was a brief discussion regarding equalization rates, assessed valuations and assessments and how that process works at the town level and Mr. Burckard’s past history at the county level on the processes.

Mr. Harding stated that the reasoning why theoretically they went from a Board of Supervisors to a Legislature was to do the county business but he can say that the politics in our neighborhood and there are two Legislators in the Town of Mamakating who are not there anymore and the people do not understand that they are here to do the county business, they think they are there to represent them and the town. When they are doing this, there is a grey area, the Legislative form of government is meant to do county business but the electorate does not understand that.

Mr. Liblick stated that he thinks one person that got elected there he would agree with but the other one he does feel got elected for that. It is reflected on the debate that Thunder radio had with one of the Legislators that lost and one that won, that person was primarily talking about Mamakating affairs and the other debate was about county affairs.

Mr. Harding stated that people who were active in the community knew what the vote was before anyone even cast a vote. I think I know which ones you are referring to and I will not mention any names.

Mr. Liblick stated I will, Rouis and Owens that was the debate.

Mr. Harding stated that the whole ground swell in the community was that the town was not being represented.

Mr. Burckard stated that in the old minutes there is a whole discussion about what does a county legislator represent, who do they represent, they get to the heart of it.

Mr. Harding stated but does the populous know, he does not think they do.

Mr. Burckard stated that maybe people did not stand up and make it clear that as a Legislator they represent everyone that is in their district. Look at some of them in the more outlying towns, some represent 3 to 5 different towns and those interest may be very diverse. Sitting here at a table that Legislator has to take into consideration what the benefit of their constituency.

Mr. Harding stated that he does not disagree at all but there are times when a Legislator gets caught in what he believes is the good of the county and what the town believes is the good of the town.

Mr. Burckard stated that the one-man one vote issue was the most overpowering thing they had to deal with because three of the fifteen town supervisors controlled the county. If those three guys decided that they were going to move the widget from here to here and the other twelve said you are absolutely not going to do that, they could have cared less. It didn't matter what happened at this table because in here it was one-man one vote for the committees, not when you walked into out, it was weighted voting. You had to go from the one-man one vote Supreme Court decision in the '60's to weighted voting for town supervisors. So three of them controlled the whole works so if someone from Mamakating joined them now not only could they do what they wanted but now they could fund it because with his weighted votes, four of them ran the whole show. We knew at that point in time because there were threats that we honestly believed would be carried out that there was going to be litigation brought against the county. The one-man one vote was so lopsidedly out of whack here we were going to lose. Most of us that were there that really understood what was going on were going to make sure that the people in the county had a say with what the government was going to be in the future, not the courts. If we hadn't acted the courts would have and this county would have been organized the way, the courts wanted it not the way the people wanted it and we were successful.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Richardson stated at the next meeting, he did speak with the Sheriff and he will be attending with the Undersheriff in January. What he heard earlier is if for some reason something comes up and the Sheriff cannot make it, he inquired if the Commission wants the Undersheriff to come anyway.

The Commission stated reschedule.

Prioritize Presenters:

The Commission had an open discussion regarding future presenters and some suggestions were Senator John Bonacic, to try and Assemblywoman Gunther to attend, Edward McAndrew, Commissioner of DPW, Richard Martinkovic, Commissioner of Public Safety, and Freda Eisenberg, Commissioner of Planning and Environmental Management.

Co-Chairperson Harrison inquired if there was a group that wanted to meet with the Board of Supervisors. She thinks with the discussions on going back to the Board of Supervisors that they need to get a feel for what the Supervisors think with the new responsibilities and complexity of what they deal with if they could even consider going back to the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Liblick stated that he thinks that they should meet with them.

Mr. Burckard stated that you cannot go back to that form of government.

Ms. Johnson Fields stated that Mr. Burckard just explained why, so why are we even talking about it.

Mr. Liblick mentioned the College President as a presenter as well.

Notification for Inclement Weather Cancellation of Meeting:

Co-Chairperson Harrison stated that they had conversations that we would have to make a call to cancel the meeting to give the Secretary time for notification by 11am the day of the meeting.

RESOLUTION:

Ms. Harrison made a motion to pass a resolution that meetings can be cancelled by 11am, due to inclement weather the day of the meeting, seconded by Mr. McPhillips, unanimously passed 11-0.

OTHER COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

There was no additional committee business.

PUBLIC COMMENT:


None

NEXT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT:

January 20, 2016 at 6:00 PM *Legislative Committee Room*

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Johnson Fields made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Liblick, meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.



Michelle Huck, Secretary