

**CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION  
CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS SUB-COMMITTEE  
Minutes of Meeting  
January 28, 2010**

A meeting of the Constitutional Officers sub-Committee of the Charter Review Commission was held at the Administration Complex, Room 106-B, Port Charlotte, Florida

Roll Call

The following members were present:

*Maureen Garrard (Chairman), Andy Dodd, Joseph Goggin*

Absent Members:

*Suzanne Graham, Patricia Kelly*

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. EST by *Chairman Garrard*

Agenda Items

1. **Approval of Minutes** of meeting December 17, 2009. *Chairman Garrard* confirmed that the members present had reviewed these Minutes and there being no additions nor deletions the motion to approve the Minutes was made and seconded and the Minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.

2. *Chairman Garrard* stated that she had contacted each of the Constitutional Officers and scheduled meetings as follows:

Thursday, February 18, 2010, 3:00 p.m. -	Vicki Potts, Tax Collector
Thursday, March 4, 2010, 4:00 p.m.-	Hon. Paul Stamoulis, Supervisor of Elections
Thursday, March 18, 2010, 3:00 p.m-	Frank Desguin, Property Appraiser
Thursday, April 15, 2010, 3:00 p.m.-	Bill Cameron, Charlotte Co. Sheriff
Thursday, April 29, 2010, 4:00 p.m.-	Barbara Scott, Clerk of Courts

Administrative support was directed to send follow-up confirmations to these officials.

The sub-Committee had then through discussion **developed a list of proposed interview questions** to be used when interviewing the respective Constitutional Officers. *Chairman Garrard* and the members first discussed some common topics brought up during public

input at the meeting held January 21, 2010 and these will be asked of all interviewees. *Andy Dodd* asked to review questions contained in the Constitutional Officers sub-Committee report from the 2004 session to make sure no issue was overlooked. The members also referred to a list of other Charter counties in the State and their respective structures as to elected/appointed officials. There was discussion of budgets, funding and interest bearing accounts. *Andy Dodd* inquired if the Sheriff's Department would be allowed to appeal their budget if they became an appointed official, and *Chairman Garrard* replied that they would not. *Mr. Dodd* and *Joseph Goggin* also asked about the policy on early release. In further regard to the Sheriff's Department the members observed that a high percentage is allocated to salaries. *Chairman Garrard* commented that the duties of the Sheriff's Office require personnel twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, three hundred and sixty five days a year. Referring to hazard/injury insurance in that Department, *Joseph Goggin* remarked that he was under the impression that was handled separately and did not come under their budget. *Chairman Garrard* also observed that the jail is franchised to the Sheriff, another budget item for that Department. With reference to other Constitutional Officers, the consensus was that their budget items are predominantly determined by the State. Brief discussion followed on several of the other Constitutional Officers, including the Property Appraiser's policy on enforcing the homestead exemption and the Supervisor of Elections methods for purging the tax rolls. This resulted in five (5) core questions to be asked of each Constitutional Officer during interview, with additional specific questions added for the Sheriff's Office, the Supervisor of Elections and the Property Appraiser. *Chairman Garrard* requested administrative support to forward the proposed questions to the absent Committee members for their input prior to distributing to the entire membership for their review.

The list of questions, in final form, is attached to these Minutes as Attachment "A".

**3. Committee Comments:** *Joseph Goggin* remarked on the disappointing attendance at the public meeting January 21, 2010 and *Chairman Garrard* agreed. *Chairman Garrard* reminded those present that the next meeting of this sub-Committee will be on Thursday, February 18, 3:00 p.m. in Room 106-B. At that time they will be meeting with Vicki Potts, Tax Collector.

**4. Public Input:** None

**5. Adjournment:** A motion was seconded and approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m. EST.

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Maureen Garrard, Chairman

ATTACHMENT 'A'

**Charter Review Commission  
Constitutional Officers sub-Committee**

Proposed Interview Questions:

**Supervisor of Elections:**

- 1) What is your opinion of non-partisan elections for Constitutional Officers?
- 2) Would a change to the charter making election of county commissioners non-partisan be more expensive than the current system, less expensive or about the same? If there is a difference in cost, can you estimate what that cost or saving would be?
- 3) What is your opinion on setting term limits for Constitutional Officers?
- 4) What is your opinion on changing the Constitutional Officers to an appointed position rather than elected?
- 5) Do you have any alternative forms of funding?
- 6) What are your observations regarding the relationship of Constitutional Officers and the Board of County Commissioners?
- 7) What methods do you have in place to purge the rolls?

**Tax Collector:**

- 1) What is your opinion of non-partisan elections for Constitutional Officers?
- 2) What is your opinion on setting term limits for Constitutional Officers?
- 3) What is your opinion on changing the Constitutional Officers to an appointed position rather than elected?
- 4) Do you have any alternative forms of funding?
- 5) What are your observations regarding the relationship of Constitutional Officers and the Board of County Commissioners?

## Constitutional Officers sub-Committee

### Proposed Interview Questions- Continued

#### **Property Appraiser:**

- 1) What is your opinion of non-partisan elections for Constitutional Officers?
- 2) What is your opinion on setting term limits for Constitutional Officers?
- 3) What is your opinion on changing the Constitutional Officers to an appointed position rather than elected?
- 4) Do you have any alternative forms of funding?
- 5) What are your observations regarding the relationship of Constitutional Officers and the Board of County Commissioners?
- 6) How do you enforce Homestead Exemption eligibility?

#### **Clerk of Courts:**

- 1) What is your opinion of non-partisan elections for Constitutional Officers?
- 2) What is your opinion on setting term limits for Constitutional Officers?
- 3) What is your opinion on changing the Constitutional Officers to an appointed position rather than elected?
- 4) Do you have any alternative forms of funding?
- 5) What are your observations regarding the relationship of Constitutional Officers and the Board of County Commissioners?

#### **Sheriff's Office:**

- 1) What is your opinion of non-partisan elections for Constitutional Officers?
- 2) What is your opinion on setting term limits for Constitutional Officers?
- 3) What is your opinion on changing the Constitutional Officers to an appointed position rather than elected?
- 4) Do you have any alternative forms of funding?
- 5) What are your observations regarding the relationship of Constitutional Officers and the Board of County Commissioners?
- 6) What percentage of your budget is related to the jail and jail staff?
- 7) Would you favor the Sheriff's Office no longer being the franchisee of the jail?