

Albany County Charter Revision Commission
Meeting: April 9, 2013

Members Present:

Willow Baer
Bob Batson
Patrick Dalzell
Michael Elmendorf
Henry Greenberg
Chris Hanifin
Ami J. Schnauber
Paul Weafer

Others in Attendance:

James Crucetti
John Thune
Arnis Zilgme

Mr. Greenberg called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Greenberg made a motion to approve the minutes from the last Commission meeting, which motion was seconded by Mr. Dalzell and unanimously approved.

Mr. Greenberg distributed a proposed questionnaire for County Commissioners to use as a means to record the desired changes to the charter, if any.

The Commission interviewed James Crucetti, Commissioner of the Health Department, regarding his views on Article 9, which establishes his office. The Commission asked Mr. Crucetti if there were opportunities for consolidation between the Department of Health and other human services departments in order to avoid duplication of efforts. With respect to the Charter, Mr. Crucetti did not recommend any substantive changes.

The Commission reviewed the summary of the charter recommendations from the previous meeting. Mr. Greenberg, who reviewed the Office of the Public Defender (Article 23) noted that compared to other county charters, the Albany County Charter for the Office of Public Defender is less detailed when it comes to qualifications, term limits of Commissioner's, type of work performed, and succession plans. Mr. Weafer, who reviewed the Sheriff's Office (Article 18) noted that there were no significant changes recommended by the Sheriff, however other county charter's do write explicit succession plans. Mr. Batson, who reviewed the County Coroners, Article 19, noted that the charter does not specify duties. Moreover, Mr. Batson noted that Coroners could either be elected or appointed, and summarized the advantages and disadvantages of each system.

John Evers, Commissioner of the Dept. of General Services, distributed a county flow chart, which shows how the different offices interact with one another. The Commission asked if the flow charts could list articles under each department headings. Mr. Evers agreed to make this

amendment and said he would create another flow chart, which would display all departments under the County Executive.

The Commission discussed logistical support offered by the County. Discussion focused on the charter commission website and the need to update it to be more comprehensive and inviting in order get the public more involved. Mr. Evers volunteered to assist the Commission with this issue.

Following the last meeting's discussions to formalize outreach efforts, Ms. Baer who is overlooking outreach efforts drafted a letter and is currently working on compiling a list of groups and individuals to reach out to. The list consists of town supervisors, NAACP, League of Woman Voters, Homeowner associations, Chambers of Commerce. She's looking for input from other committee members regarding other groups and individuals to contact. Mr. Evers volunteered to provide Ms. Baer with the contact information of all elected officials. The Commission plans to have this list complete by the next meeting.

The Commmission agreed that its next meeting should be scheduled for Thursday, April 25, 2013, at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Weafer moved to adjourn the meeting, which motion was seconded and unanimously approved.