

Albany County Charter Revision Committee
Meeting Six: May 9, 2013

Members Present:

Jacob Crawford
Henry Greenburg
Chris Hannifin
Antonio Cortes
Willow Baer
Paul Weafer
Patrick Dalzell
Mike Elmendorf (by Telephone)

Others in Attendance:

Carina Comiskey
Bradley Fischer
Theresa Giffen

Mr. Greenburg called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 pm.

Mr. Greenburg a motion was made to approve the minutes from the April 25, 2013, Commission meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

The Commission decided to move future meetings to Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

The Commission addressed the status of the "Issues List". Mr. Greenburg suggested that the Commission wait until the Commission has heard all of the agency issues before tackling any of the proposals to the issues listed, in order to develop a uniform policy regarding agency issues.

The Commission discussed the possible sub-committees needed to review articles that are more complex. In addition to the sub-committee dealing with Fiscal Procedure (Articles 4, 5 & 6), sub-committees will begin to research the Legislative Division of Powers (Article 2), the Stature of the County Legislature (Article 2), Succession Planning and the County Executive (Article 3). Mr. Dalzell, Mr. Crawford and Mr. Weafer volunteered to be included in the Fiscal Procedure sub-committee. Mr. Cortes volunteered, and Mr Greenburg volunteered Mr. Batson, to be included in the Stature of the County Legislature Committee. Mr. Greenburg, Mr. Hanifin, Mr. Elmendorf, Mr. Weafer and Mr. Crawford volunteered to be included in the Legislative Division of Powers sub-committee. Ms. Baer volunteered to be included in the Succession Planning sub-committee. Mr. Greenburg volunteered to be included in the County Executive sub-committee.

Mr. Hanifin made a motion to turn the Commission's attention to the agency representatives here to be interviewed, Mr. Crawford seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

The Commission interviewed George Brown, the Fiscal Director of the Dept. of Aging, regarding his views on Article 24 of the County Charter which establishes the Dept. of

Aging. The Commission asked Mr. Brown questions regarding the relationship between the Dept. of Aging and the Dept. of Social Services. The Commission informed Mr. Brown that they may have follow-up questions for the Commissioner of the Dept. of the Aging. With respect to the charter, Mr. Brown did not recommend any substantive changes.

The Commission interviewed Gail Geohagen, Deputy Commission for the Department of Children, Youth and Families, regarding her views on Article 24A, which establishes her office. The Commission asked Ms. Geohagen questions regarding the relationship between the Dept. of Children, Youth & Families and the Youth Bureau. With respect to the charter, Ms. Geohagen did not recommend any substantive changes.

The Commission discussed reviewing the list of Departments that had at one time been a part of the Dept. of Social Services, but have since migrated out.

Mr. Cortes reported on the charter issues involving the Head of Probation.

Mr. Elmendorf updated the Commission on the status of improvements to the Commission website. Currently, the Commission website consists of previous Commission minutes, the date and location of the next Commission meeting as well as an email address allowing the public to submit comments to the Commission.

The Commission agreed that its next meeting should be scheduled for Wednesday, May 22, 2013, at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Cortes moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Greenburg and unanimously approved.