

100722Minutes DRAFT

Charter Commission Meeting, Raymond, Maine 6:30-8pm

Members Present: Claude Morgan (chair), Lisa Villa (co-chair), Steve Gorden, David Lunt, Neil Jamieson, Kathleen Babeu.

Others Present: Elizabeth Trice, County Staff.

Motion to approve all past minutes (Jamieson, Lunt, passes unanimously)

Timeline: draft will be presented to County Commissioners on August 9th.

Gorden checked with legal; charter goes to ballot regardless of what County Commissioners do with it.

Group agrees to hold last meeting/press conference on August 5.

Motion to approve changes (use language from agenda) considered in current draft, which can then be given formal vetting (and non-substantive changes) by legal (Villa, Lunt)

Friendly amendment motion to reduce number of commissioner district in section 3.1.1 from 7 to 5 (Jamieson, Villa)

Jamieson: basis for motion is that only one municipality voted to approve 7 districts 2 years ago. People are not attracted to more government. We've done a good job explaining it, but after September our job is done, and we won't have the opportunity to explain it. Given the political climate, I wouldn't want to throw away all the good work we've done in the last two years.

Villa: Agrees. Initially like idea of 7 districts, but worry that this will be seen as an expansion. 7 would give greater representation, but want to err on the side of caution.

Babeu: Agrees. Initially preferred 7, but thinks it's a good compromise to go to 5.

Lunt: Still prefers 7, however, will sadly agree.

Gorden: Totally disagrees. Has not found in front of the public anyone that thinks that less representation is better. The voters are very sophisticated. With just 5 districts, you're still going to have a large number of municipalities represented by one person. The survey is split, which tells me that people are not afraid to move away from 3. Even with 7 districts there are still more constituents represented than a senate seat.

Morgan: I agree with Gorden, but I think we've lost the vote here. I like the idea of more diversified voice and representation, but anything is better than three. Right now the entire budget is decided by two people.

Gorden: The one major reason I would like to see 7 rather than 5 is it sets up an appropriate tension that you won't find with 5. As the population move farther out, this will be more important.

Jamieson: If we had our druthers, 7 would be great, but we need a charter. This can be revisited later.

Lunt: Wants to show united front when voting.

Babeu: Any increase from 3 is an improvement.

Morgan: From a tactical point of view, if three folks were to vote against the amendment, the motion would be stalled. From a parliamentary point of view, the people who are

absent tonight are out of luck. I did not see this coming tonight, but I'm OK; I can live with it.

Vote: 4 vote for change to 5 districts, 2 opposed (Gorden, Morgan); this is now included in larger motion to accept changes.

Vote on original motion to accept changes to working draft: Passes Unanimously

Moving forward: Starting Sept 9 the charter commission is dissolved, and at that point the group (presumably) wouldn't meet in the courthouse, but would have the freedom to advocate for the passing of the charter.

*Lunt: Invites group to New Gloucester Community Fair on Saturday October 16 to promote event. Will make sure that group has table, and group can split the time. Don't dress up.

*Babeu: Will pursue Cumberland Fair, Municipal clerks.

*Jamieson: will try to get on "Law on the Line" –

Morgan: Strang-Burgess has mapped out timing of letters to the editor

Gorden: Local service groups: fire, water, public works all have statewide meetings.

Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions,

*Morgan will contact chambers or commerce –Portland, Sebago Lake, Bridgton

*Morgan: let's brainstorm through emails what other groups to do outreach to.

Gorden: current conversation is outside the realm of the charter commission; let's do it after we disband, and do it through regular email rather than charter email.

*Morgan: will check on money in budget but thinks charter commission funds can't be used for signs – would be considered advocating.

*Trice will check on cost of original printing of FAQs

*Jamieson will check on limits individuals can spend on printing promotional materials.

Morgan: Thanks to everyone for the good work. The charter reads well; anyone could get it.

Our next meeting will be August 5th in Courtroom 1.

All are welcome to join Morgan on the 9th at 5:30 in Feeney Room when he presents the charter to the County Commissioners. He will also float text of narrative that explains the history of how the document came to be.

Discussion of whether to change time of August 5th meeting to daytime to attract TV crews.

Motion to adjourn (Gorden, Babeu) 7:27pm.