

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING

The first meeting of the Charter Review Committee held on Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 6 p. m., in the Legislative Hearing Room, Sullivan County Government Center, 100 North Street, Monticello, New York.

Members present: Steve Altman, Paul Burckard, David Forshay, Peg Harrison, Sandra Johnson, Bill Liblick, Nadia Rajs, Larry Richardson, Kenneth Walter.

Members absent: Bruce Ferguson, JJ Hanson, Ray Nargizian

Others present: Steve Acquiro, Executive Director of NYSAC, Patrick Cummings, NYSAC Counsel, Scott Samuelson, Chairman of the Sullivan County Legislature, Legislators Kathleen LaBuda, Cora Edwards, Gene Benson, Ira Steingart, Sam Yasgur, County Attorney, Nancy Buck, County Treasurer, Joe Todora, Acting Commissioner of Department of Health and Family Services.

One member Matthew Migliaccio resigned before the start of the first meeting due to personal reasons.

Scott Samuelson, Chairman of the Sullivan County Legislature opened the meeting at 6.04 p.m. Chairman Samuelson informed Charter members he just got back from Middletown, from a meeting with casino developers, some executives and economic developers in Orange County. He said we are beginning to start a dialogue in the conversation of how we are all going to work together in the region to have the most successful development and the most successful resort that the State has ever seen. It was very exciting but I think it was a habitué of what is to come for all of us. This is the most exciting time, I think that we have had in Sullivan County since I have been here, probably in most people's lifetime. What you are going to be doing over the next couple of months, is going to be extraordinarily important. We are going to be visiting our form of government. We are going to be visiting possibly staggered terms for Legislators, review the Charter and the Code, pick it apart, talk to people, find out what works, what doesn't work so well. It is going to be an exciting period of time for all of us. You do have one resource that worked on the first Charter, Paul Burckard, who did serve on the first Charter Commission . So he will have some institutional knowledge of the process in the last meeting. In investigating the election of the Chair of this committee, I went back into the minutes (from the last Charter Revision Commission), by the way you all know Terri Waverla, she will be your secretary. We went back into the minutes to see how the Chair was elected then and you are going to have a great time. I would like to introduce to you the CEO of New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) who has an unbelievable wealth of knowledge of County government. He is going to share with us tonight his views, on how you might proceed and how things are done in other areas. I would like to introduce Steve Acquiro, Executive Director of New York State Association of Counties.

Steve Acquiro, thanked Chairman Scott Samuelson for inviting him to Sullivan County for this important task that the Charter Review will be doing on behalf of the people of Sullivan County. Mr. Acquiro said I have been at NYSAC for a number of years. I have seen Counties create governments, change governments and I have seen Counties evaluate their government and that is what you are doing right now. You are evaluating your system of government that you have. Scott mentioned that I have a breath of knowledge, I have learned a lot over the years about what works and what doesn't work. My main advice to you here right now is, if you have seen one County, you have seen one County. No two Counties are the same. I see the County Comptroller from the County of Ulster is here. Just because Ulster County just changed its government structure, doesn't necessarily mean that Sullivan should do the same. Because there were unique needs that happened in Ulster County that created a new form of government. The County Comptroller is here tonight from Ulster. He is a witness of what happened, the transformation of that government, but each County stands on its own. The people that you serve, the residents, the businesses here in Sullivan County, that is what matters most. What you are doing in charting your course and evaluating your government is a good thing and you are doing that through this Commission. Let me go back a little bit to the early days in New York. In the early days in local government, the Counties operated largely through Boards of Supervisors. All of us have Boards of Supervisors. Whether you had millions of people living there or whether you had hundreds of thousands or just thousands, it was a Board of Supervisors. I believe there is a couple of dozen still in New York State with a Board of Supervisors. They are very efficient. They are town supervisors on a Monday and a County supervisor on Thursday. They are running both governments. CEO of the town and member of a County board. State law allows us, you to change your form of government. So what happened is, I believe around the 1950's, State law allows us to change our form and it goes back to how I started here. Each County is different in its needs. Some Counties want to change and pull away from a Board of Supervisors form of government and create a County Legislature. Some Counties want to change their government from Board of Supervisors to a County Legislature with an elected Chief Executive, County Executive. Some Counties wanted to change their form of government to a Legislature with a Manager, like Josh, like Sullivan has presently. So you can see each County. I live in Albany County, neighboring County, Saratoga, Board of Supervisor, the traditional form of government. Schenectady County, borders us, Legislature with a Manager like Sullivan. Across the way, Columbia, Board of Supervisors, no Manager, no Administrator. So you can see, New York's Counties, the fifty-seven of us, have different forms of government each of the Counties themselves. The fact that you created a Commission through the Legislature to evaluate your Charter is your way of taking a look at - how's it going here in Sullivan County? How is the government working, how is it functioning? I don't think that it is fair for the Commission to criticize property taxes, or the economy, or hold the Legislature responsible for that. There are many factors that have gone to the economy, property taxes here in Sullivan County, most if not all of that, at the State level, with the mandates. You have heard about these issues. We have Counties where every penny collected on property tax pays for Medicaid. Every penny of the levy for one program, Medicaid. We have other Counties where sixty to seventy percent of the levy or just one percent of their levy, for Medicaid. So there is different forms and different purposes of what you are doing. The fact that you are here, talking amongst yourselves, listening to the public, the news media needs to be engaged every step of the way, everything you do, you want the media here. You want to inform the citizens, you want to let the business know, the chambers know what you are doing and seek feedback

whenever you can. It is the people's government that you are here discussing. **We have fifty-seven Counties in New York, outside of New York City. There are three methods of a County organization. You have a Charter, which Sullivan has, a Charter government. You can have a Charter government with a County Executive or you can have Charter government with a Manager, like Sullivan. You can have a Non-Charter government with an appointed Manager or Administrator, like Saratoga. The third one is, those just operating with just a board. Those are three types of government. Charter with Executive or Manager, Non-Charter with Manager/Administrator or just board oversight (Board of Supervisors or County Legislature -no manager). So three different types.** Discussion ensued.

Nadia Rajsz asked if you have just a board, who then..... Steve Acquiro goes on to say-good point. It is very difficult, these days, to operate the government without discretion.

Bill Liblick asked in selecting a County with a Board of Supervisor with weighted voting, it was determined that we had to create the extra layer of government. So how do these other governments that have just Board of Supervisors, how do they function with weighted voting? Steve Acquiro said in committee it is one person, one vote, but on the board it is weighted. Bill said in Sullivan County they said we had to change that, it could not be weighted voting any longer? Steve said I have to look into it.

Paul Burckard said it was a threat of litigation, one man, one vote. That was one of the reasons we made the change because of the lopsided system that was in Sullivan back then. Other Counties near us like Delaware, have more Towns, more diverse population and it is not as blatant as it was in Sullivan County. Steve Acquiro said correct, the government back then, the people that were here, made a change and they must have felt as Patrick (Cummings counsel from NYSAC) and I were talking about. They must have felt that the best way to do it was by Charter. Because it allows you to make multiple changes in one law. A Charter is just a local law, just so you can clear it up. A Charter is a local law. Under this instance though that Charter goes to the people, to get approved by the people. Please ask questions throughout, hearing from you is the best way.

Sandra Johnson Fields asked so when changes occur it is voted on by the people? Steve Acquiro said so you have a Charter that is done by what you are doing here, goes to the Legislature and gets approved there, then it goes to the people. To change it, it goes back to the people.

Patrick Cummings, NYSAC Counsel said, depending upon the changes typically, when you create a Charter, the creation of the Charter in general, it needs a referendum of the people when you create it, new. Changing certain sections of it, can be done under just local law, without a referendum. But when you are talking about changes to elected officials, powers and duties, a few other changes, get your County Attorney to look at the change. In general terms, when you are talking about making changes to elected officials that needs to go to referendum.

Steve Acquiro goes on to say, you can amend your Charter right now by local law without a vote going to voters but if you are changing elected officials' powers and duties or issues with other local governments, Towns, that needs to go to the people in a referendum. Steve Altman asked

if we come up with something in two weeks, then it has to go to the County Legislature? Steve Acquiroy said yes, you are making a recommendation to you legislative board.

Steve Altman asked and if they don't approve it? Steve Acquiroy said it is a local law.

Bill Liblick said it is a local law. We are making recommendations. The Legislature determines if they want to listen to what we want to change. Steve Acquiroy said that is the representative democracy that we live in. That is why you elected them all. You are helping them, you are bringing the voice of the people to them through your work. Much more discussion ensued regarding the previous Charter's recommendation to go to a County Executive form of government and a petition to place it on referendum and discussion regarding the number of votes needed to remove a County Manager without a permissive referendum and how it went to litigation.

Steve Acquiroy said twenty-three Counties have a Charter. Eighteen of the twenty-three have an elected County Executive. Of the twenty-three, five have a manager (like Sullivan) or an administrator. So eighteen and five make up the Charter form of government. There are twenty-one Counties , which have an administrator and ten have managers. So thirty-one of the fifty-seven Counties have an appointed professional manager. Discussion by members and Steve Acquiroy.

Steve Acquiroy goes on to say, 1980 ends the journey to change our forms of government. Rockland County creating the Office of the County Executive. 2008 were joined by Elliot Auerbach the Ulster Comptroller, changed its government to create a County Executive, creating a Charter. I don't believe the County had a Charter before that so it established its first Charter in 2008, in your neighboring County of Ulster. The last to occur was Montgomery in 2012, very recently. Just elected its County Executive in 2013. Let's talk about those populations of comparable Counties . Your population is around 73,000, Chemung 88,000, Montgomery 50,000. It is a little unusual to have a County Executive form of government with a population of 50,000. What the people there, rather overwhelmingly, approved that change after multiple times of being defeated. They had a Board of Supervisors form of government in Montgomery. We had been out there for hours of meetings, implementing the new Charter, working through that government in transition. So this is (2015) the first full year of that for the County of Montgomery. They have a County Legislature with a County Executive. I believe a County Treasurer as well.

Steve Acquiroy said our County Attorney is with us, Sam Yasgur. Steve said I have a map here but I can't see it. I don't know if you all can see it but you can see where you are here. You can see the color showing where the Charters are.

Ken Walter asked can we get copies of it? Steve said yes, I have it in a Power Point. I will send it to you all. I will email it to Scott and he can share it with everybody. I have some additional handouts and then you can talk about organization. You can see from this map, where the

Charters are and they are the populace Counties . Every County is unique. If you have looked at one County, you have looked at one County. The Long Island Counties , all the Hudson Valley Counties have Charters. Orange, all of your older Counties , with the exception of Delaware with a Board of Supervisors.

Patrick Cummings, said Montgomery County by the way, fifteen legislators. Steve asked how many Towns do they have? Steve said they have two cities, I will look that up for you if you like. So County Charter Law, what you are looking at right now is a State law. A State law that authorizes us to collectively do what we are doing, to look at our government. To try to understand our government, its Charter. The Counties power to adopt or revise the Charter, may provide for an elected County Executive or mentioned in the prior Charter Review Commission , must provide for a legislative body, can never do away with the legislature. You need that check and balance or just the legislature. Somebody has to be an elected body.

Bill Liblick asked there has always been talk, a lot of people say we should go back to the Board of Supervisors and as we said we know about the weighted voting but it is an answer..... that is what everyone says, this is just not working, it is wrong, we need a Board of Supervisors. How do you respond to that? Steve Acquiro said I have never seen that happen, going back to a Board of Supervisors. I always thought you could not do it. Sam Yasgur said you can. Steve said I always thought you couldn't do it, I don't know why I thought that way but I still think you can't do it and your County Attorney is saying you can do that. I don't remember why my thinking was so I can't defend that but we have never seen that happen, change to a Legislature and then go back to a Board of Supervisors. I think, practically speaking, you would have to have all of the Towns approve that too, so practically speaking it would never happen. In a way, that would disrupt a lot of governmental functions. If you had twenty-three Towns with town counsels (boards), with town supervisors, they would all have to agreed to this change and there would be massive referendums and changes and lots of confusion.

Steve Altman said usually if you have an elected head of government, he is either one party or the other. But if you have an appointed one, like a professional manager, not a political party person. Patrick said they work at the pleasure of the board but they usually have contracts for terms, the managers that we typically see. I do want to make a correction. Montgomery County has nine legislators, the fifteen was the previous board.

Nadia Rajs, Supervisor for the Town of Lumberland said we have spoken about Board of Supervisor and the possibility of going back. We never made any decision but it has always been thrown out there. We have spoken about it in the past. There is no direction to go back. Steve Acquiro said twenty-three Counties use the Board of Supervisors, it was the traditional form.

Steve goes on to say, what is a County Charter? It prescribes the structure of County government, if you look at your Charter. It provides for an elected legislative body to determine

policy, exercise powers of local legislation, appropriating money, it provides how that elected body does that. It specifies agencies and officers responsible for the performance of motions, powers and duties. It provides for manner of election, appointment, terms, removal of County officers. A County Charter provides an Administrative Code. Sam, does the County of Sullivan have an Administrative Code? Sam Yasgur said it is an odd one. Westchester is different, it (their Administrative Code) goes back to 1927. Our County's Administrative Code for the most part parrots Charter. I have never been sure why and I don't know if anybody really knows. Steve Acquiro goes on to say, you don't have to have an Administrative Code, just so you know. It does get into the details of the function of government, that is what the code does. Some Counties, as Sam just talked about, Westchester's Administrative Code is this thick, thousands of pages on how that government functions. What each board does, what each official does, most of the other Counties, it is nowhere near that thick. Some Counties it parrots the Charter. So your County Charter, you could set up a code. It must be consistent with your Charter. We talked about Ulster, Ulster adopted their resolution in August of 2004, to establish the Charter. In 2006, it approved it and in 2008, the population voted for their first County Executive. Some reflections on that. I think Ulster County was largely successful in its implementation but it might depend on who you talk to there. I don't know how the legislature feels but I think the executive form of government there, Michael Hein is the County Executive, I think he has made that position work well. He has established himself as the Chief Executive of that County. It was a very difficult transition, I would say, over the initial years of implementation. I believe the second election occurred, the third one is this year, so Ulster is living through its Charter.

Bill Liblick said the other comments that people have, if you do adopt a County Executive, and people vote for it, the biggest criticism is it becomes a popularity contest and a no name runs and that person may not be the best person to run the government. It becomes very political. What have you seen, when they adopt a County Executive, is it political? They kick the guy out? Is it a popularity contest or is it someone that feels they could do the job? Steve Acquiro said, well let me say in preface, I love all the forms of County government. I love those Boards of Supervisors, they are very efficient. I love the County Legislature, whether with a County Manager and a straight Board of Supervisors, running the affairs themselves. Really, it does function in each of those systems of government. I have no bias towards one, one way or another. Working with County Executive forms of government, I work with them all day, all week long, and I work with all the others. Each of them has a unique prospective on government. The manager being really a professional manager. Does not get elected, serves at the pleasure of the board and acts according to their wishes and a representative democracy.

Peg Harrison asked what is the typical term? Steve said four years. We live in a society where it is a democracy, a representative democracy, there are benefits of an Executive form of government, and there are checks and balances. Congress, the State, the President, the Governor, the Legislature, the County Legislature, and the County Executive, there is a cross check on Mister or Miss Popularity, so it is a popularity contest but that person is going to be subject to the

check of the County Legislature. They do propose the budget but the Legislature appropriates that budget and has a very strong role and check in government. I don't mind a popularity contest. Because Mister or Miss (Popularity) is going to be walking down Main Street and they are going to have to look in people's eyes. The decisions that are made, they are making on behalf of people's tax dollars. Appropriating the tax dollars, which arguably is the most important function of what a Legislature does, of what a County Executive would do. All the elected officials, they are in charge, the public stewards, of the public's money. So we have elected town highway superintendents, a popularity contest. Sheriff, it works, those people are going to be accountable, two years, four years. If they are doing a good job, the people are going to say, let's keep them. If they are not, let's make a change.

Peg Harrison said but they are being elected into an ongoing organization that they don't have to create. In Ulster, Mike Hein was the Administrator that ran for County Executive, so he created his department and it evolved. That is not likely, in this situation, where we are..... Steve said I don't know where you are going. Peg said but that has to be brought up. That it is not likely that, what is successful, he was successful at accomplishing, could it be given to this County Exec? Steve said you came in a little later than my first opening statement which was that no two Counties should be compared to each other. Because what worked in Ulster, may not work in Sullivan. Peg said but how about the evolution of it? Steve said it was rare that a County Manager/Administrator like that would run for County Executive. I have not seen that happen in any other County. He did create that office and he did evolve that office as the professional manager into the elected County Executive, Countywide. It was rare. He was able to define that. Did I answer the question? Bill Liblick said you answered the question.

Steve Acquiro said other comments. Montgomery had a Board of Supervisors. Again that was in November of 2012, I think it was three attempts, three defeats, after the third one, the voters approved it in 2012 and then in 2013 they voted for their first County Executive. Matthew Ossenfort was not an elected official. I believe he worked at the State legislature as a staff person. Someone asked was it some trauma that happened? No. I think it was a particular supervisor, who sat on that board that felt the government should change and by having an elected County Executive with a Legislature, it would change their operations and it was approved. I met with all those Supervisors before it happened and then after, everyone was largely stunned that the people approved it. After it was approved, it was a reality check that they had to implement this new Charter and it was a very difficult process for them to do. But they are making it work. Matthew Ossenfort is the County Executive that is serving there now.

Steuben County is another one that just changed. Its first ever Charter and they put in a Charter like Sullivan. They had a County Administrator, no Charter. Now they have a County Manager. They have a Charter now, with a County Manager and the difference there is that Manager appoints department heads. So it has some appointing authority, with respect to departments. The current County Administrator there, did become that County Manager. Revising the Charter, you are going through that right now. That is the purpose of this Charter Review

Commission . Your recommendations to the Legislature is very important to the Legislature. They are going to listen to concerns, listen to your suggestions. They are here, the Chairman, several of them, Gene Benson, Cora Edwards, Kathy LaBuda, our Treasurer is here Nancy Buck, I saw Dan Briggs when I walked in. Some of your department heads are with us.

Bill Liblick asked you mentioned Nancy. It is an elected position, the Treasurer, the Counties that have County Executives still have an elected treasurer or do they have a comptroller? Patrick some do, some don't. Bill asked what did they do in Ulster and what did they do in Montgomery? Steve said in Montgomery, they kept it. In Ulster, they transitioned it into a Finance Director.

Gene Benson, Legislator said just so you folks are aware of Legislator Wheeler, of Montgomery County, when I met her in Saratoga, she was telling me about the change. I sent her a copy of our Charter and she worked with that and also I sent a copy to the people in Steuben County. I don't know how she used it. Steve said she is a rare one because she was on the board as a Supervisor and was re-elected as a Legislator and she may be the only one. Maybe there was one other.

Steve Acquiro said so, again, you are in the process of looking at your government right now, your Legislature, your Manager, your Department Heads, you should talk to the Department Heads. Understand what they do. Talk to the Real Property Tax Director. Talk a few minutes to talk to the County Attorney. Tell them "don't be bias", just tell us what you think the County Attorney's position is. Some Counties have a Legislative Counsel for the board and a County Attorney for the County Executive. I never understood that.

Someone asked is that what Mike Hein has? Steve said he does. For me, the County Attorney is the County Attorney. The board often times feel there are unique needs that the Legislature needs for legal counsel. In many instances, there are conflicts.

Sam Yasgur, County Attorney said Orange has the same thing but if there is litigation, the board's attorney cannot represent the County. So Orange has a Legislative Counsel.

Steve Acquiro said talk to your Department Heads, the Chairman, Legislators. Talk to Legislators on committees, how are the committees working. Is the government functioning well? Talk to the Manager, what is it like to manager this County of 70,000 people? Talk to the Chambers, the citizen groups, ask them to come in. Who knows what a County does. Who in this room really understands what a County does. Very few of us do, even if you are an elected County Legislator, or Supervisor. Very complicated for the Towns to truly understand the burden of the County and what it has to do.

Nadia Rajsz said or vice versa. Steve said or vice versa, the Counties understanding what a town does. So there is different structures of government. But the Counties and the Towns are very close to each other in government operations. They always were close growing up together.

We need to take time to understand local government because the State is trying to define us, as inefficient and the problem. We are not the problem at our local level.

Nadia Rajszt said the State is also trying to push us into consolidation. I just came back from the Association of Supervisors and that is all we heard.

Steve goes on to say I am all for it but we have been doing it, for forty or fifty years of sharing services. We don't even know we are doing it, we're doing it. Because that is what we do together as governments. If you try to understand the government and not change for change sake, why do you want to change your government, why? Well, we have a problem, well what is the problem? People don't have a job. Does changing your government going to fix that? Maybe, maybe not, but going through this exercise of understanding the government, its role, its purpose, even if you came out of this process and said we like our government. We think it functions just fine, you have done your job and you have helped the people of this County and the future generations. We are only here for a certain amount of time. We are passing along something for people to come after us that they can use and treasure, and make work. You have changes on the horizon here. There are a lot of eyes on Sullivan County, in the nation, in the State, in the region. Your partnership with Orange County government right now, very, very historical and important. For economic development, jobs, regionalism, regional government, execution you did today, that announcement very important for the region. This part of the State was where it all happened and you remember that. Many of you remember it and you are on the prescient of coming back into that tourism, residential, commercial. You are going to have challenges. The Legislature, you are going to have challenges, infrastructure, impact of commerce, impact of Towns, impact of traffic. How are you going to Legislate through this? How are you going to zone these types of issues? We don't do zoning, the Towns do. So a lot of zoning issues. Commercial, casino revenues, how are you going to appropriate that money? Should it be shared with municipalities and why? Should it just be a hand out to the Towns? There has to be a rational thought process given to why, distribution of revenues. But I think going through your government and trying to understand its purpose will help you make recommendations to the Legislature. Again, it is a complex government, just talking about Counties right now. We have two hats, predominately State agent. As Chairman of the Board, Scott is a State agent, collecting your taxes to pay State bills, whether it is in the Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's office, represents who? On behalf of the people of the State of New York. County Clerk, agent of the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles. We have heavy DSS, Mental Health. Joe Todora is here. State functions, Mental Health, Department of Social Services, Medicaid, we have a lot of our government dedicated to State purpose. So as you go through the Charter, you have to remember that a lot of this stuff, functions, is tied to State direction. We have the dual hat that the Towns don't have. The Towns don't have, the Cities don't have, that mandated function. We are alike with our Towns, Cities and Villages in that we have local purposes and local functions, local powers to adopt our form of government. To create departments to serve community needs, to serve our Veterans, our

older adults, quality of life programs, how to interact with our Towns and municipalities, to do the things we really want. If we structure government today, we would never be like what we have now. We would never have this crazy system of paying for Medicaid on property taxes, eight billion dollars, with a capital B, for one federal health care program. We would never structure Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education with a County government who has no educational function and never did, other than, we used to approve the school budgets prior to 1950. We don't do that anymore.

Bill Liblick asked we have all these local school boards. Has a Charter Review Commission ever explored looking into Board of Education and consolidation of that? Steve said we used to have the authority, the obligation to approve the school district budgets. It was taken away. I am sure the Counties at that time were happy not to do that anymore. We don't do that function anymore, nor do we have jurisdiction anymore. But I think that you should recommend or look at how can the County work through or with BOCES. We have had a terrible disconnect between the regional school BOCES and the regional government, the County. The County is the regional government. Think of it as the region. When you think of a County, what it does, you think of the region and it acts as a regional government. Jail, 911, Human Services all of the things that the Towns collectively can't do for themselves, the County performs. Bridges, bridge functions, Towns largely have the Counties do bridges over twenty feet in length. Roads, Towns do very well, strong core function of town government. So to look at schools is worth a look but the jurisdiction is limited on what the County can do with school districts. School district budgets, school Superintendents, they evolved in a separate jurisdiction of government. But BOCES in procurement is a good look and well worth it for the Towns, the County, and BOCES to figure out how they can share services. When talked about shared services, consolidation, I think that is a good thing, to look at the BOCES and educational functions.

Paul Burckard said so is studying of training. I just came off of the BOCES Board, I was on it for the last six years. One of the things, we discussed was setting up specialized training programs. So that when the business comes in we have trained people to become the employees of those businesses. So we can say to business we can supply the people to make the widget, otherwise they are going to go someplace else where they can get those people. So between us and the college, we are looking to, we still are, to work on programs, to train people, as we try to work with Economic Development in the County to get people to come in here. Bill Liblick said and one example is Casinos. Paul said that is exactly right. Steve Acquiroy said job training is going to be vital.

Cora Edwards said while you are here Steve, I would like to ask a question. I am not sure I am phrasing it correctly but what I have noticed is that the Charter defines certain duties, the departments that are under them. Some Department Heads have shown me over time this may have worked at the time that it was written and it has evolved in such a way that it is not feasible, it is just not practical. I am sure that will come up as departments work but what I noticed is that over time a lot of resolutions have been written devolving a party from the Legislature. For

example, contracts, because I have heard, well, we have never passed a resolution without reading the contract. We never would pass a bond resolution without knowing what roads are going to be fixed. Are you guys insane? And so there is this sort of Charter drift, if that is the right way of putting it. That resolution after resolution has devolved the power or authority away, yet the Legislature is still responsible. So can you address that? Steve Acquiro said I would respond that with you have to deal with what is in front of you now. You as a Legislator, was not responsible, no one at this table was, probably nobody in the audience was responsible for the changes that came before us. So you have a system of government right now that the board delegated, which you have to listen to your County Attorney, might have been properly done. The board can delegate many functions to the Manager, to the Department Heads or to other elected officials. You have that authority to delegate. There are certain things that you cannot delegate, that is appropriations, approval of contracts, I think approval of contracts, the County Attorney is saying yes, approval of contracts, (can be delegated). Certain things can be delegated and certain things cannot be delegated. But I think that, again, I don't know the specifics of the delegation but if it is not working, your board has power now to fix it through local law, not even that, resolution. You don't even need to do local laws, although local laws might be better. You might be able to change things by simple resolutions. As you mentioned, resolutions did it. Cora Edwards said in the first instance it said one thing and the resolutions devolved our authority. Nadia said what you are saying it was deluded out, the power of the Legislators? Cora said consistently over a long period of time. So when you want to find out what your responsibility is and that is why I mentioned specifically a road and a bond and getting a list of what the roads are before we pass it. Steve said it sounds reasonable. Cora said yes, I agree.

Steve Acquiro said again the different forms of government worked for each of the Counties. A County Executive, let's talk about that. Face of the County - that is the person that the newspapers is going to get quotes from. One Stop Shop - a place to go to, that person can negotiate things, position the County for Economic Development, jobs, can negotiate and position the County in such a way that could prove to be quite dynamic for this County. If it wants to make a change in that way. Perhaps, negative side of doing that is the disruption and unnecessary disruption in government. Why did we do that. The system was working, was functioning. The board was responsible to the people and the board lost power. Pros and cons of each system of changing.

Bill Liblick asked under State level, when it comes to the Governor's office, it comes to Albany over the Senate and the Assembly, do they view a County Executive as being the spokesman, more powerful then when they discuss something with the County Manager? Who gets the more respect? Steve said I don't think they understand us. Someone asked who? Steve said the State , they don't understand us. I think if Scott, dealing with Aileen Gunter, your capable State Assembly representative, if Scott had a conversation with her, I think that would carry the same weight as if Michael Hein was talking to her. Bill Liblick said now the Governor's office? Steve

said the Governor's office must respect the form of government that is in place and Scott as Chairman would have the same authority as the County Executive.

Sam Yasgur said Steve, would you address this Legislature, somewhat unique in the State, you have all nine run at the same time. Your experience with that and what issues might be raised by going with staggered terms? Steve said I am kind of giving a personal opinion on that.

Nadia asked before we get into that I just want to go back into County Exec. With a County Exec, he is the direct line with the State, Governor's office. You are saying in this case, it would be the Chair of the Legislature as opposed to the County Manager. So the face of this County is your Chairman of the Board and not the Manager. Steve said unless Scott asks the Manger to call the Assembly or the Senator. Or the Manger wanted to interact with them and report back to Scott. There is nothing that prohibits, the Manager from directly interacting with State officials. I am sure your Manager does on a regular basis but the Chief Elected officer, the CEO is the Chairman of the Board. Peg Harrison said which is not elected by the people, only elected by ones districts. Steve said it is a representative democracy though. Sandra Johnson Fields said a County Exec is elected by the people? Steve said County wide. I understand your point. Your point is well taken. The County Executive is elected by the people at large and the Chairman of the Board is elected amongst his or her peers, which I don't have a problem with either. That is how it goes.

Ken Walter asked under County Exec how does that translate into dealing with agencies like an IDA or a college board of trustees, how would those memberships be filled? Who would they be answering to? Steve said I am sorry before I get to that question, I was thinking about the Constitutional Convention in the 1700's, remember they elected John Hancock amongst their peers to be the Chairman. He is the first signature on that document, so somebody has to be in charge. The question was regarding IDA's and appointments? Ken Walter said right now in our situation it comes through the Legislature. Now you are going to have another layer, another entity. Now you are going to have an IDA or the college board of trustees, who becomes the appointing authority for those seats? Steve said as Pat reminded me as I was driving down, it depends. Ken Walter asked it depends on what. Steve said it depends. Some State laws determine what the Legislative body shall appoint. Whenever you go through that and you are going to go through all these appointments and all the Water Conservation Boards, County IDA's, lots of different boards. Library Boards, many different boards that you have. Where it is not in State law it would go through a Charter recommendation to the Legislature on what you want to recommend on how to structure the appointments, big issue in Montgomery. As we went through this change in Montgomery County, lots of things changed out there. The Legislature said we want to make that appointment to the Community College trustee. Department Heads, largely appointed by the County Executive, confirmed by the Legislature, check balance, balance check. Paul Burckard said it doesn't have to be. You could create a scenario where that doesn't happen. Steve Acquiro said it doesn't have to be, no confirmation at all. In most instances that is the case and Paul who has a wealth of knowledge of County

government experiences is absolutely right. Many of the officials will be appointed by the County Executive but the larger Department Heads would be subject to confirmation by the Legislature. Bill Liblick said let's say we meet and we recommend a County Executive. Attach to that, should we have all of those positions like the IDA, to say that should be under the authority of the Legislature? What should be under the authority? Steve said as the County Attorney correctly pointed out where State law prescribes the appointment with Water and Soil Conservation Districts, a Community College, might be the board, might be as well, wherever that is, that State prescription, be the board. I would say the vast majority of all others would be the County Executives. You don't want to micro manage the Executive form of government. You want that person to have the ability to succeed and to succeed you have to build the team accountable to the people. The board doesn't want to give away too much powers. Paul Burckard said depending on how you write the Charter you could craft the County Executive form of government to be more or less powerful. Steve said right. Paul said so one of the decisions you have to make if you are going to go to that form, what government do you want? How powerful do you want that relationship to the Legislature. The more powerful you make the Exec, the less influence and power of the Legislature. Steve said and don't ever forget the Legislature has the power of the purse, the appropriations. Patrick Cummings said, and the veto overrides for local laws. It is going to be the County Executive that has to aye or nay, if that local law goes through. Typically, that gets kicked back just like the State, you can do it, two-thirds override. So they can go back to the Legislature and it is something we really want, so you would still have that authority to pass local laws.

Cora asked can you give an example of what you are talking about? Patrick said it is a local law axe. It doesn't matter the issue. It passes, you have eleven County Legislators and the County Executive vetoes local law X that can come back to the Legislature. If ten of the eleven pass that local law, that local law can pass without the Legislators approval if that is the way your Charter prescribes that power. Steve said let's say he or she vetoes it, the County Executive, you could override that, so you have powers. Someone asked can we get a copy of the Sullivan County Charter and asked if there is a way to get Charters of other Counties. Chairman Samuelson informed members that the Sullivan County Charter is on the Sullivan County website at www.co.sullivan.ny.us.

Bill Liblick said getting back to Sam's question about staggered terms. Steve Acquiroy said I don't want to disrupt anything here. I don't think it is a good idea to have everybody run at the same time. I think that is a recipe for serious disruption in government. Bill Liblick asked how do you change it. Steve said you have to do it in a referendum. Bill Liblick ask how do you determine who is going to run for two years and who is going to be there for three years. How do you start that? Steve Acquiroy said probably after this year, do it as part of your Charter change. Much discussion took place. Steve said we will look into that question (staggered terms). I am not going to answer that question now. I think you will have to look for something fair.

Peg Harrison said I have a question. Mechanically, I picked up from Cora that the Charter might not have been changed but a resolution might have been passed that modified the delegation of the work load so it wouldn't be a Charter change. It would be revoking resolutions. Patrick said, as Steve said at the beginning, your Charter is ultimately one giant County local law. So these changes can be made by local law or resolution. Peg said but the resolutions, we have to follow up on all the resolutions, not just the resolutions that change the Charter. Steve said both, and the last one counts as Pat reminded me driving down. Patrick said, and these powers, keep in mind, if you are delegating some of these powers, as Steve mentioned this, that power doesn't permanently vest. You are an elected official, you always keep that unless the rule of referendum. That local law says this power that was normally an elected officials, permanently now positions X's power. But you can delegate that power through local law, probably resolution. Then you can always change that back. You can't permanently lose that power. Peg said but there might not be a Charter change as much as there would be maybe recapping some of the resolutions. Someone stated but I think we have to look at them. If any Legislators, or anyone has problems with the change of government, how its evolved, then I think we should look at that. Patrick said in the big picture view, your main job, I believe, is to look at, how is our government operating? What is the most efficient and best way for the people to operate. Steve Acquiro said and you might conclude that having the same government that you have right now is in the best interest. You might decide it is not. And the Legislature has to make that same decision.

Steve Acquiro said I think as to the question (staggered terms) from Sam, your County Attorney. I would say that would be done as part of any Charter reform that is done. It wouldn't make any sense to try to change that anytime sooner but it clearly is not in the best interest of the government to have everybody running at the same time. We can look into and give you examples. I caution you on trying to weight through twenty-eight Charters, very difficult, complex issues. Let me get back to what matters most is Sullivan County, not Orange, and not Putman compared to Montgomery because what Montgomery did is they used Putman's Charter. There were lots of issues.

Steve Altman said I made that because there is a term quote "best practices". Sometimes you pick up really good ideas. Steve Acquiro said I don't mean to discount that, you are absolutely right, you should look at them, see how they are structured certain questions like we are going through now. How did they structure their terms? Great we have a couple of Charters, let's look through them. That is a smart thing, to look through them and we can get those for you. We can get you a sampling of similar size (Counties). I don't know if you want to look at Nassau's population two million or one point six million, it might not be practical. Chemung, Chautauqua, Montgomery, Schenectady, Steuben's Charters, they might be good comparable Charters to look at. Someone said there is more in the Charter than just how many Legislators there are. There is so much more in these things that even a big County might have a good idea

for a small County. Steve Acquiro said I remind the bigger ones that the small Counties have great ideas for them too. You are absolutely right.

Paul Burckard said the original Charter Commission had a specific reason why it went with uniform terms. That was not done willy-nilly. They knew exactly what they were doing and they had reason for it. If you could check to see if any of the Charter Counties that have become Charter Counties, if any of them ever changed from uniformed terms to staggered terms and if so, by what process did they do it. Because you could be five/four, four/five, three-three-three, the question of how you would go about doing it and then recommending to the Legislature who is going to go first, it is extremely interesting. If you could see if anyone ever did it. Steve Acquiro said I was going to suggest that you pull a name out of a hat. I mean, really, how else could you possibly do this without offending everybody.

Sandra Johnson Fields asked what was the history behind it having to be uniformed term limits? Paul Burckard said because that was part of a whole lot of other things when we made the original decision to change the government. But with regards to the Legislature, we felt that we were making a monumental change going from the Board of Supervisors government to a County Legislature. We kept the County Manager because we have a County Manager place and we felt by doing that it would help to make the transition from the Board of Supervisors into the County Legislature work better by keeping that form but not going to a County Executive. That could always have been looked at later on as we are talking about now. We wanted the uniform terms for a couple of different reasons. One because the Legislators were going to be brand new and were going to have to learn a whole new form of government basically from scratch. So there was a tremendous amount for them to get up to speed about in running the County government. Secondly, we felt that, historically, people who are in office generally get re-elected and in that, the original Charter Commission was correct because most of the County Legislators have been re-elected. We did not foresee a situation where all nine would be defeated all at one time. A few maybe, but we felt by doing what we did, get them rolling, they would learn the job and consistently would be there. I know there is a feeling now about changing it to staggered but doing that raises a whole host of other questions. **Steve Acquiro said we will look into getting some copies of Charters, we will look to see the uniform verses staggered terms of the board in the Charter Counties. Any other assignments?** Patrick Cummings said I would talk to your local Board of Elections, see how much cost that would be. It might not be any difference. You are going to have two elections. You are going to have more local elections with staggered terms. People running, there might be a cost, find out what that cost is. Steve said although the Congress does run every two years. Patrick said exactly, so it might not be anything but it is something to look into.

Steve Altman said the contacts for the County staff and such, we can get that on site as well or are we going to get a hand out. Paul Burckard said the Code is there as well. Kathy LaBuda said we can give you the directories, it lists all of the Commissioners and Department Heads. Paul Burckard said I would like to raise another thing and this is a good place to do it. This County is

looking at a relatively significant change because of what is coming. Since the County Legislature has the ability at any point in time to set up a committee and take a look at the Charter and recommend a change either through a local law or through a referendum. And since this Charter Commission has generally been re-created once every ten years, nothing prevents, and correct me if I am wrong, nothing prevents this Charter Commission from saying to the County Legislature, we recommend that four years from now you set up a committee and look at this. Because we believe that may be the time to take a look at this particular thing. Steve Acquiro said yes, you can do that. Paul Burckard said we can do that and then it would be up to them to pick up on that recommendation if they so choose. Because in making a change, as I said at the first meeting, there are two things that are involved in that, one determining that maybe this form of government maybe better than something else. But secondarily is that the time to make that change? Steve Acquiro said right, timing might be right four years from now. It might be right now. That is up to the Charter (Review) and the Legislature.

Steve Acquiro said some closing comments from me. If we have some more comments, I would be happy to keep talking. The relationship with the Towns is very important. I think the relationship with Town government and County government has historically been very close and aligned. Public Health, remember the Towns had Welfare before the County did. We took that over. We have a close relationship and should remain that way going forward for future generations. So as you go through the changes in your Charter, the Towns should be apprised and included because it is all local government and the media is the second concern and I can't stress it enough. The public has to buy in to what you are doing. Otherwise editorials will come out, newspaper stories will come out and (you will say) that wasn't what we discussed at the Charter meeting. Yet the headline reads something different. So by continuing to include the public, notify them with press releases, make sure they are involved at the process that worked in Montgomery. Patrick Cummings said that is especially true when you need to get a referendum. You are making those kind of massive changes, so you are going to get a County Executive, which will require a referendum. You are going to definitely need some communicates to the media to keep that communicated to the people. The rational of why you think it is a good idea and hopefully they are going to think it is a good idea to make it happen. Bill Liblick said we need to have Public Hearings. Patrick said the people need to be on board. Even if you think it is a great idea, the Legislature thinks it is a great idea, if the people don't it won't happen. Steve Acquiro said people are busy. Some of us don't have a job. Some of us don't have the luxury to come out to a Public Hearing or meeting. So the newspapers, television, they have to be informed. A single mother, three kids can't come out to a meeting. You have to try to get information to that person. If that person is to make an independent judgment, yes, that is in the best interest of the government.

Cora Edwards said so basically you are saying we need to do a kind of outreach. Steve said I think on a Charter change, yes. Do the best you possibly can. You are all working men and women. You have jobs. You have families, lives, and the volunteering that you are putting into

this project, you know at the end of the day you want to say well, we reached out to the business community. We reached out to homeowners, to condo associations, owners, hotels, tourism people, gaming CEO's, gaming people who might come into the region, the Towns. If they don't come, doesn't mean they are not interested but you will have afforded an opportunity. You all can sleep at night knowing you did the best you could to get public input. Look at the County Board meetings, how many show up on a Public Hearing on a budget of two hundred million dollars? It is difficult, all across the board, all across the State, people can't come out. So I congratulate the Legislature, congratulate the Commission for looking at the government, trying to understand the government. It will be complicated to understand the government. We are going to hand out County Government Organization (booklets) that we put together for you, that will be helpful. A lot of things that we talked about are in here. What you heard and what you are going to go through is a lot of the challenges that the Legislators go through. How they do their job of making local laws, passing resolutions. Why are they acting a certain way. Why does the County Manager proposes a budget a certain way. Why do the Department Heads perform a certain way. Why is the Treasurer commenting on certain things in the budget, property tax collections and sales tax collections, all difficult complex jobs that they all have to make the government run and function. It is a dual function government. Home Rule, take care of the people at home. Property affairs in government, but State agent, State mandated function. The Community College payments, the Jail payments, the size of the Jail, how many Correction Officers have to be in the Jail, Medicaid Administration, Food Stamps Administration, Child Welfare, Public Assistance, Pre-School Special Education, Early Intervention, Public Health, Mental Health, all the mandated functions, it is very complicated form of government. But it is exciting, it is vibrant, and can be changed as you are talking about here and that is the beauty. As Pat mentioned on the way down, the beauty of the State law, this Charter law, you could change your government. Create it to be what you need it to be and I think that is the best part of our statute. Thank you for having me down here, my pleasure. I appreciate everything. I have no bias towards one way of government or another. I hope I have made that clear.

Nadia Rajsiz said I just want to ask one thing that you had said very early in the beginning. That there are still Boards of Supervisors, as we know, or Boards of Legislators, is there any County in this State with just a Board of Legislators? Steve Acquiro said there may be but I am going to say no, but there may be one or two, but I think they are all Supervisors. Delaware, Chenango they have no Manager, just a board. Someone said you are saying a Legislature without a County Manager? Steve said they are all Boards of Supervisors. Nadia said Board of Supervisor that either appoint or choose a Manager or nothing. Steve said there are County Legislators that have appointed like Sullivan, and Schenectady. Steve said I appreciate the opportunity. It is wonderful to meet everybody. Thank you to your County Attorney as well.

Chairman Scott Samuelson said I think we need to finish this up. I think that was an extraordinary presentation. A great way to start and I would image that we can count on NYSAC and Steve Acquiro for individual questions as we go along. As he said everything is

open. If you want to bring in staff. You want to have meetings and have outside agencies and groups. Whatever this board chooses to do, you have the ability to do that.

Steve Altman asked how often do you think we are going to meet? The Chairman said that is entirely up to you. It has nothing to do with me. What is going to happen is, probably at the next meeting, hopefully everybody will be here, you will chose your leadership, your Co- Chairs and or your Chair and your Vice Chair. Maybe we can settle that discussion now.

Bill Liblick said the reason I sent the email was because we had a wonderful meeting the first time that we met. We are all getting to know everyone and we are able to get Steve because there is a lot into this. So who is interested in being Co-Chairs? I definitely think it should be Co-Chairs and who wants to dedicate the time and everything else. It shouldn't be just a symbol.

Nadia Rajszt said I personally think it has to be the full board (here). Chairman Samuelson said there is no question about it. Bill Liblick said we could proceed at our next meeting. I don't think you have to be there. Chairman Samuelson said you need somebody there to run your meeting. Bill Liblick said the last time we did a great job. Nadia said not to exclude you Scott. Chairman Samuelson said you really should have..... Much discussion followed by members talking at the same time and could not always be recorded. Later the discussion lead to the scheduling of meetings.

The pleasure of the members present is to schedule the **next meeting on Wednesday, March 25th at 5 p.m., in the Legislative Hearing Room, Sullivan County Government Center and to invite Gerald Benjamin as the next speaker at 6 p.m.,** with Sam Yasgur, County Attorney as the alternate.

Paul Burckard said a couple of different points. Several members of the Legislature have expressed interest in speaking to the Charter Commission. Since we have to report back to the Legislature, I think it would be better if we talked to the members of the Legislature sooner rather than later. I would ask Scott if you could find out from the members of the Legislature who in fact would like to speak to the Charter Commission, individually. That will help us schedule time in order to get everybody in as soon as we can. Secondarily, if we are going to choose a Chairman at our next meeting, we should spent a couple of minutes now talking about what the job of the Chairman is really going to be. So that whoever agrees to do it or Co-Chair it, they will understand what they are getting themselves involved in. Just from prior experience being on the first Charter Commission and then actively involved in every other one up until this one starting out again. The Chairs are going to be busy. They are going to work with Terri Waverla in setting schedules, setting meetings and having speakers come in. Because you are going to have as you heard Steve say, many, many people come in, so that is part of the Administrative function of it. As you go down the road, we may suggest where we meet. I think it would be good if we meet out in the Towns. It would get people in. I am sure the Towns would be very happy to host this and that would give people a chance to come and sit and listen

and participate because they may have to make the ultimate decision. Just running it here, we should go out. Nadia said I envision that happening a little later in the process. Paul said that is correct. That is something that the Chair is going to be involved in. Later on, it gets to be even more and this is what people have to understand. If this Charter Commission does nothing more than tidying up the existing Charter, so a referendum is not necessary, then a tremendous amount doesn't have to be done at the end. If this Charter Commission recommends something significant that is going to call for a referendum, then the Chair or Co-Chairs are going to be involved in a lot of what Steve was talking about. Happened to us the first time. Going about and making presentations to all kinds of organizations, going around the County, speaking, handling the press, etc., etc. So the Chairman or the Co-Chair is going to be very busy doing that as well as organizing the writing of the Charter. That comes under the Commission and at the same time making the presentation to the Legislature at the end. So the people that are thinking about it, you should know, do I want to be Chair or whatever, they have to understand it is not about just running the meetings. Bill Liblick said let me ask a question. Anyone here thinking about wanting to be Chairman? Anyone?

Chairman Samuelson said more importantly, is there anyone that doesn't want to be (Chairman of the Charter)? You could probably eliminate and then move on. Nadia Rajesz said I don't have an issue with being a Co-Chair. Paul Burckard said I would consider being a Chairman. Peg Harrison said JJ Hanson sent an email and said he was interested. Discussion regarding who was absent from this meeting and the fact that one member needs to be appointed.

Larry Richardson said the question in my mind is whether you have a Chair and a Vice Chair or Co-Chair, if you have a Co-Chair how do you divvy up (the workload). Chairman Samuelson said they work together, just like Robert Green and Dick Riseling did. Paul Burckard said Co-Chairs alternate running meetings, getting prepared and it helps to take some of the work load off of one person. Chairman Samuelson said so everybody is in agreement, the Co-Chair is the way you want to go? Members present said yes. Chairman Samuelson said you will have that election in the next meeting. Paul Burckard said we all took turns introducing ourselves and why we were interested in serving. So the one person here that hasn't done that yet is Steve.

Steve Altman introduced himself and said I own a business in South Fallsburg. I have been running it since 1962, I have sixty to seventy employees. We service customers in five states. Some of you may know my brother Michael, graduated Harvard Law. I got thrown out of a couple of community colleges. Spent a little time in the Army before Vietnam and I have been in the County most of my life. I took a little business and made it this big. I am a convenience store supplier. I did it in Sullivan County, my home County. The County has been good to me. The Town of Fallsburg has been good to me and I thought I would just give a little back.

Ken Walter said I have two housekeeping issues. Because this is a public body and comes under the Open Meetings Law and I talked to Lorne (Green, from MIS) about it. That we all have an email address so everything is on a server and it is available. In case somebody FOILs (Freedom

of Important Law) some information, they don't have to be running to any of us individually to come up with it - did you get an email, what is in the email. So it is all kept in a depository in a certain location. Chairman Samuelson asked so you want all information that you guys work on for this Commission in a separate place on the website? Ken Walter said no, I am talking about emails right now, it is FOILable. Nadia said so they will FOIL my email. Ken said so if it is all in one place it will not get lost. Peg Harrison said private email is excluded. Bill Liblick said If we have a County email account then you will have to go to your County email account to go look to see if someone emailed you. Discussion resulted regarding County email. Ken Walter said the other thing I think we should have is a page or spot on the government website that does have the agendas and does have the minutes so it is available for everybody. I am going to have to go back and re-visit the email thing. Bill Liblick asked do you have it on the Ethics Board, a separate email? Ken Walter said something came up, I never thought about it. Talking to Lorne, we could have one email and it could broadcast to all of us. Bill said we are doing that now. Terri said I think what Ken is saying he wants an email such as Chartermembers@co.sullivan.ny.us. Ken said yes, and the other thing is we should have one set up info, so people in the community can see. Terri said you need to check that with the County Attorney because I think those emails would be FOILable anyway. Nadia said if we had a link on the website with all of the minutes going up and all the information going up, as well as having some kind of a depository of questions coming in from the public so it can get disseminated among the board members. Chairman Samuelson said so maybe for your organizational meeting, we should ask Lorne to come here to ask him the question.

Paul Burckard said a couple of other housekeeping things. We should adopt Roberts Rules of Order. So that the Commission will run under a specific form so that would work well with the resolutions and making amendments, doing all kinds of other things. Secondly, we are going to have to make a determination since there is thirteen of us. How many do we believe we want to set as a quorum in order to be able to function and that we may also want to discuss one way or another what we feel would be the number of people that would come to a conclusion and agreement to make a recommendation to the Legislature. Is it going to be a simple majority? Is it going to be a super majority? We have to have some idea as to where we are coming from. So if we suggest to move it from here to there, we know how many people in this group have to agree to do it. That is something we need to think about before the next meeting.

Larry Richardson said that is something I thought about coming down as well. For the purpose of conducting regular business and what we are going to do, a simple majority should be sufficient. But my thinking is when we get to the end, if we want to make recommendations, I would think a super majority or some larger number of just a majority because the last thing we want to do is send a recommendation to the Legislature saying well seven were for it and six were against but we are recommending you do this. Nadia said but for operational reasons, Roberts Rules is half for a quorum. Ira Steingart asked for those times, are you talking about a quorum, a majority of a quorum? Larry Richardson said we were talking about the majority of

the sitting board, which is the case with local boards now. If you have a Town Board you have to have a majority of the sitting board in favor or it doesn't get passed. Bill Liblick said if we are going to recommend a County Executive to the Legislature, I think you should have maybe a super majority. Larry Richardson said for just going from meeting to meeting and we want to take a poll on the board do we want invite this one in or that one in, Larry asked are you going operate on a majority of a quorum that is present or a majority of the sitting board? Discussion continued.

Ira Steingart said you make the recommendations to the Legislature and we are going to determine, whether you like it or not, so why don't you just do the vote so they know how strong you feel about it or it is going to be like a jury?

Chairman Samuelson moved to adjourn, seconded by Ken Walters. Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Waverla, Secretary