



Sullivan County Charter Review Commission Meeting

February 15, 2017 at 6:00PM

Present: Bruce Ferguson, Peg Harrison, Michael Levinson, Bill Liblick, Brian McPhillips, Larry Richardson, Paul Burckard & Norman Sutherland

Absent: JJ Hanson, Sandra Johnson Fields, Sara Sprague, Steve Altman & Ken Walter

Others Present: Andy Ford

The Sullivan County Charter Review Commission Meeting was called to order by Larry Richardson at 6:10pm, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Discussion regarding changes of January 18, 2017 minutes.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Richardson stated that JJ and Larry made a presentation at Leadership Sullivan last week. Feels it was pretty well received and tough acts to follow. Started at 9am in the morning and went until 5pm. It was a large group. There was discussion after the meeting that if in fact this goes out to the voters for referendum, and we talked about the need for education, and there was some unofficial suggestion that perhaps some in the group might be willing to take that on as a task. To go to some community organizations within their towns and make presentations. So, it would be very important I think that once we are done and we make our presentation to the County, that in some capacity we get together and say if we are going to go out there and education the public so that we are all on the same page. We all have the same book to work from and pages to look from. (discussion followed)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Discussion regarding correction of January minutes.

Mr. Burckard moved to approve the January minutes as corrected, seconded by Mrs. Harrison. Put to a vote and carried 8-0.

OLD BUSINESS (CONTINUED):

- Bruce Ferguson's draft documents (3): Case for Cty Ex, Comptroller, and Role of Leg.

Mr. Richardson stated there were three documents that were circulated from Bruce to JJ and Andy.

The one draft tonight, there are two changes from your document. I think we need to go through them. To see if we are happy with them now. Bruce would you like to go through them?

Mr. Ford stated the one on the letterhead is the latest one.

Mr. Richard stated we are going to talk about the one that came in the memo format. The one from the County Attorney's Office, from Andy. That's the one that JJ submitted. All he did was take it and put it in a memo format. There are corrections that you and I spoke about before the meeting. Let's just look at the memo first.

Mr. Ferguson stated the first document is very simple, the County Executive. The only change is on lines 12 through 16.

Mr. Richardson stated that most people haven't seen this. I'm not sure if they even saw the one that you, JJ sent to Andy.

Mr. Ferguson stated yes, we disposed of that at the last meeting. We were done with it. Everything was locked in on that.

Mr. Richardson stated that is what I'm saying.

Mr. Ford asked is everyone looking at memorandum heading forms?

Mr. Liblick stated yes, part one.

Mr. Ferguson stated you are suggesting that JJ may have made changes.

Mr. Richardson stated you made some changes that you talked to him about.

Mr. Ferguson stated, no, at the last meeting this document was locked in.

Mr. Richardson stated no changes were made to that.

Mr. Ferguson stated no, we accepted the changes at the prior meeting. We were done with the County Executive document at the last meeting. As far as I know. Unless you are suggesting that JJ made changes.

Mr. Richardson stated that this document is the same document with some changes that I made and with what we agreed at our last meeting.

Mr. Ferguson stated no, the only changes and this has something to do with that Paul found was some formatting problems.

Mr. Richardson stated the difference starts at line 12 in the memorandum form. Paul pointed out that we needed to clarify some language in the document that was sent to you. So, what I did was, I kind of pasted on line 12, from the Charter, the wording that exists in the Charter today. Under subsection C 1.05a, it goes on to say. Additional Charter Revision Commissions., composed of qualified county electors, chosen by the County Legislature and representing various segments of the County shall be appointed at least once every ten years. Thereafter to review and propose revisions to this Charter, if required. So, that language is directly taken from the current Charter. But there was a question on whether or not the Charter Commission is actually required to be appointed every ten years. I think that was your question.

Mr. Burckard stated no, I said it as a positive fact. That's why I called Bruce. If you read this, it says, a positive statement that they are required to be appointed every ten years. The answer is no, that is absolutely not correct. That's been misinterpreted since the day that was enacted and nobody has changed it. But I saw no need to. But I know Sam knew and he stayed quiet, I'm sure Sam knew. That's why, if required, is so important and that's what everybody missed. If the Legislature, ten years comes, if they're happy they see no problems. They see no reason to put the Charter Commission in. They do not have to have the Charter Commission. That's what, if required, is so critical.

Mr. Ford asked what are you suggesting? Taking the current language out?

Mr. Burckard stated no. What I'm saying, I called Bruce because I wanted to make sure. I thought the one that I was reading was the one we're going to vote on and give to the Legislature. When I realized, when I was reading this, the importance of this. I called him to make him aware of this so he would be clear, if he thought that something needed to get done for clarification. Because if you read this, it says we must have a Charter Commission every ten years.

Mr. Liblick stated I'm interpreting it a different way. The Legislature can call a Charter Review Commission at any time. But they have to do it at least once every ten years.

Mr. Burckard stated no, they don't

Mr. Liblick stated that's what it says here.

Mr. Burckard stated no, if required.

Mr. Ford stated you could interpret it to say review and propose revisions, if required.

Mr. Ferguson stated yes, that's what I think makes sense.

Mr. Ford stated but it does bring the question what does if required mean. If the Commission requires it, it doesn't necessarily mean it happens. It means the Legislature has to considerate it. But, I do like the idea, Paul, of quoting the whole thing because it does give it more context.

Mr. Ferguson stated, so there's no harm to quote.

Mr. Ford stated no harm to quote the exact language.

Mr. Ferguson stated although the exact language is actually problematic.

Mr. Ford stated it could be interpreted differently. But you've already been formed and they have a history of forming them.

Mr. Burckard stated if nothing else, even if there are people who may have argued over what was intended, I think what was intended was clear, as far as I was concerned. But, in any event, even if that's not the case. Nobody can ever come back and criticize.

Mr. Ferguson stated what we got wrong.

Mr. Ford stated I would even suggest that you put that in the report as a change.

Mr. Burckard stated I agree. This is a working document.

Mr. Ford stated that I just meant you could also recommend to the Legislature to correct that language.

Mr. Ferguson stated so then we are happy with the inserted language from the Charter?

Mr. Buckard asked is everything else identical?

Mr. Ferguson stated you said it wasn't. Do you see anything that's different?

Mr. Richardson stated well then it moves all the lines then.

Mr. Ferguson stated it doesn't matter.

Mr. Burckard stated he has it here stated in section C105a, that was not in here.

Mr. Ferguson asked where is that? That is precisely the change.

Mr. Ford stated that from my point of view, as the guy who reformatted this. I took the text exactly as it was and I did have some questions, which I think I emailed you about, footnote 3. Because some of it looked like it wasn't quite clear if there were separate ideas meant to be in separate footnotes or not.

Mr. Ferguson stated no, it was all to the same point. There were three items there.

Mr. Ford stated the one thing I did do on footnote #2, where you quoted me in my memo, I just quoted the source that I was quoting, which was the handbook itself. In another memo it made sense to quote me specifically. Here you are just quoting a quote. So, I just gave the primary source. Otherwise I think it should not have changed anything.

Mr. Ferguson stated this document should not change from what you have done. Andy I'll just point to one formatting issue. It probably came about because of the change that Larry made on page 1. If you look at page 4. There are two lines of text that should be above the footnote. Local government handbook.

Mr. Burckard asked why is that?

Mr. Richardson stated well he told him something different and it messed up the format.

Mr. Ford stated so this should be one of the main part of the memo, not a footnote.

Mr. Richardson stated it's not part of the footnote. Or it could go on page 5, either way.

Mr. Ford stated I will see why that is.

Mr. Burckard stated the bottom of this one.

Mr. Ferguson stated that's page 4 correct?

Mr. Burckard stated yes, it's on the bottom of this one.

Mr. Ford stated but it's still within the main text not format.

Mr. Ferguson stated it's a formatting error at some point changing something.

Mr. Ford stated yes, it's meant to be main memo.

Mr. Ferguson stated at any rate it's a formatting error that whether I made or Paul.

Mr. Ford stated so do you want me to make that change and sent it back to you?

Mr. Ferguson stated no, it's just a formatting thing. We'll just move the text to the top of page 5 or above 4.

Mr. Ford asked am I controlling it at this point or are you?

Mr. Ferguson stated I don't have a computer now. My computer's broken. If you could just do it.

Mr. Ford stated, Larry if you could just send me the latest versions. I'll change that.

Mr. Richardson stated yes.

Mr. Richardson stated that's the final report part 1. Any other questions on that one?

Mr. Burckard asked, can I ask one more?

Mr. Richardson stated sure.

Mr. Burckard asked are we going to meet again with the absolute final version in our hands to vote on before this goes to the Legislature?

Mr. Richardson stated I'm thinking so. We're very optimistic. I think at the last meeting we had the idea that this would be voted on tonight as a final document. They meet tomorrow. It's not going to work that close anyway. To be able to take this tonight and then prepare a presentation for tomorrow. So, I'm not sure if there is any other meeting where we could present or we're stuck to the Executive Meeting next month.

Mr. Ford stated if you don't mind taking it out of order I'm happy to talk a little bit about how you might want to consider presenting this.

Mr. Burckard stated there's a method to my madness, can I explain why?

Mr. Richardson stated ok.

Mr. Burckard stated if this can be corrected and have it where you want it, however you want to do it. Emailed out to each member of the commission. They'll have time to quietly sit and read it like I do, every word, every paragraph, and every piece of punctuation. Because a comma can mean a lot, just like what we are discussing right now. We put that comma if required

for a reason. So, anyway, the reason for that is once we vote on it and hand it to them, it's done. Then the whole world has it in their hands. So, we better get it right the first time.

Mr. Richardson stated, before we leave tonight, we are going to make a vote on each one of these documents if we're happy with them. With the grammatically changes or whatever we call this, that Andy's going to work on. Hopefully, now, so the next question is the time frame to present this. Andy, if you want to share.

Mr. Ford, stated sure, one thought. Your next meeting if in March, the Executive Committee and the Full Board meet the very next day. You could ask to get on the agenda for Executive. Present the report to them. Say a few words if you'd like. There's even talk about a power point perhaps, that might be put together between now and the next meeting. I know JJ was thinking about that. You could do that. You could also just hand the report to them and separately ask Luis to be on the Full Board or a special meeting of the Board to present your report. So, you give it to them, two weeks later you have a special meeting or the following month you have a meeting. I wonder whether or not presenting it to them in Executive and then talking about it at Full Board is going to be as productive. So, that was one suggestion and it was also said, you could approach Luis, instead of being limited to an overall Board meeting where there's other things on the agenda. Say you would like to have a special meeting of the Board to walk you through our thoughts and answer questions that the Legislature might have. So, that way you'd present it in Executive and then it might be two more weeks or a full month before you actually before you did a full blown presentation.

Mr. Burckard asked is this before or after?

Mr. Buckard stated the second line and there's a very good reason for that. When I was on the NYSAC Board of Directors, that's the way everything was done. Because if you didn't and you handed something to a County Exec, and you wanted to discuss it, who didn't have time to read that. Some of these people will tell you, this is not the way you should be doing business.

Mr. Ford stated and you risk that that's the last time you ever talk to them.

Mr. Burckard stated, that's correct.

Mr. Ferguson stated, so submit and then have the meeting later is what you are saying.

Mr. Ford stated yes and the way to do that is approach Luis and maybe you do it well before next month. Just to say that I want to be on the agenda for Executive and we would like time either with a special meeting, that would be in May at the point, not April. A special meeting in April or more than the 5 minutes you usually get to do a presentation in Full Board in April and see how he wants to handle it. Obviously it's going to be easier for him to make those plans in advance. So, the sooner we go to them and say that's what we are thinking the better. Because then you can adjust if they say they don't want to do a special meeting, then maybe you want to do the Executive, stick around for the Full Board, introduce it and then come back the next month and do the rest of the presentation.

Mr. Ferguson stated we don't have to submit at a meeting. We can simply submit the documents.

Mr. Ford stated, that's true. You can. You are both kind of right. The agenda is usually circulated in advance with any reports. So, ideally, you'd probably want to submit the report maybe a week or five days before.

Mr. Liblick stated he would like to come to the Executive Meeting, have the report to distribute and then we'd like a special presentation.

Mr. Ferguson stated, at a later date.

Mr. Liblick stated yes, for the public to be there. Leadership Sullivan people together in this room and make a big powerpoint presentation in here. In the Legislative Hearing Room.

Mr. Ferguson stated, now another question, I think we've talked about and I think you have said it at one point, Andy. I think we should this into one document. Do we need three memorandums?

Mr. Liblick stated yes.

Mr. Ford stated I said that to JJ as well. It's obviously your call, but, if it's one report you can accomplish narratively the same thing you are accomplishing here by having an executive summary and an introduction. Then go into each section separately.

Mr. Ferguson stated, I think it's much better as one report because these things are interlocking. You can't really do the one without the other.

Mr. Ford stated and you had to keep them separate up until now because you have been working on them.

Mr. Ferguson stated yes, they are separate chapters.

Mr. Ford stated yes, it's something to consider and if you want me to fold them into one to see how it looks.

Mr. Ferguson stated I think that makes a lot more sense.

Mr. Liblick stated the problem with that, if you do that, you have to have a strong cover letter to go with it.

Mr. Ferguson stated we definitely need a strong cover letter. But, I think, this is chapter one, two and three of our report.

Mr. Ford stated and actually there is a fourth chapter because we can fold back in the staggered term.

Mr. Ferguson stated these are interlocking and that's not.

Mr. Ford stated it's not, but in your final report, why not include all your recommendations.

Mr. Ferguson stated yes, or we could reference it. We need a strong cover letter, which should be we respectfully submit the following. One of the things that I talked to Paul and Larry about and I don't know how you guys feel. I think to me and I don't know what the rest of you think. I know I would pay attention if someone said I changed my mind. I started out opposed to the County Executive, but in the course of the two years of testimony, I was brought around to believe that this is the only good way forward. If people are willing to say that. Actually, Larry had an experience at your town meeting this past week. Tell them what happened.

Mr. Richardson stated I will share it. We'll get back on the agenda in a moment. I'll just say that every month I do a presentation before the town board. I submit a written presentation and then I read the presentation. I report on Upper Delaware Scenic Byway. I report on activities of the Upper Delaware Council and the Charter Commission. The comment was, when I presented on the Charter Commission, from the Supervisor, well, I'm surprised, when you started with this, and you were not in favor of a County Executive. You were looking at a County Manager. I said well, that's so. I really thought that we could strengthen the existing form of government and make it better. But, through two years of testimony, I came to the conclusion that there are overwhelming arguments on why we should just change it. He accepted that because he himself early on, he didn't say he endorsed it, but, from the town of voice, the discussion, I think my presentation over and over again they are coming around with the same way of thinking. He made point of the fact that you changed your mind. I said to Bruce, I don't have a problem anyway if somebody makes note in there that you changed your mind.

Mr. Ferguson stated if three of our chairs went in, not opposed to a County Executive, and all were persuaded by two years of testimony, it was too way forward.

Mr. Burckard stated my question is how serious are we going to be considered being that we took two years of our lives to do this and read in the paper that they are looking for a \$100,000 assistant to Josh.

Mr. Ferguson stated that's a parallel reality to ours. We just have to keep our head down and work on what we are working on.

Mrs. Harrison stated business has to continue and they need a Deputy County Manager.

Mr. Ford stated the County Manager term expires with the Legislature and the idea of implementing an idea like this with in his current term is probably impractical anyhow. What could theoretically happen is that all just gets rolled over into the budget of

the County Exec anyway. The position will be needed one way or the other.

Mr. Burckard stated you already have it in there, that extra money.

Mrs. Harrison stated I would make the suggestion that we really, strongly request a special meeting as opposed to presenting it at Executive. Because there are points.

Mr. Ford stated just to be clear, you would submit it at Executive and they can talk about it then too. One way or the other, you want to be at a public Full Board Meeting. Whether it be a special meeting or regular meeting.

Mrs. Harrison stated correct, but it would be nice to be in an environment where we could actually be a little bit more of a training environment. Because there are comments that come up from time when you are in the Executive, that you cannot respectfully, would not correct the Legislator at. But, clearly should be corrected. I think that if you could back off to a full regular scheduled meeting and get our own special meeting. We might put ourselves in that environment where we can actually present things and have a more back and forth conversation, but when they are in their regular scheduled meeting.

Mr. Ferguson stated no, you are absolutely right. I think we all agreed at the recommendation that we request a special meeting. Or, a block of time where we're not pressed to speak fast because there is something else on the agenda.

Mrs. Harrison stated I need a special meeting, you don't want to be with others.

Mr. Ferguson stated I know, we're still not telling them what to do. So, we can request.

Mrs. Harrison stated that's right.

Mr. Ferguson asked Paul you had a comment?

Mr. Burckard stated I thought a lot about when Bruce asked me about using my name personally. The more I thought about it, the more I'm not in favor of that for a couple of reasons. Number one, I'm in business. Number two, I think if you say, x numbers of the members of the commission changed their minds. But to use individual names with all the wackos that are out there today and when they stop picking on Trump's little grandchildren, this is sick. We act as a whole. We are the Commission. What we are recommending, the Commission is recommending. I would be much more comfortable not having individual names.

Mr. Ferguson asked let's see a quick show of hands who changed their minds on this. Say several members of the committee changed their mind.

Mr. Richardson stated remember the rest of the people didn't come in with a real opinion. Steve Altman changed.

Mr. Liblick stated the only one we don't know about is Ken.

Mr. Ferguson stated we don't know whether this is a unanimous recommendation or not.

Mr. Ford stated yes that was going to be my question. Is the thought that this is going to be unanimous or just voted on and therefore, majority rules.

Mr. Ferguson stated I think that if it's not unanimous. I think we should memorialize the vote. Because if it's 11-1, I think that's different than 7-5. I think we need to say 11-1, if that's what in fact going to be.

Mr. Richardson stated you had suggested to me that, versus a resolution, that we have a, what was the legal term.

Mr. Ford stated what I mentioned and frankly it's more from my corporate background with the county, that I think you have flexibility as a commission. You could always submit a written consent. Which basically says the same thing as a resolution and instead of it being minutes of a meeting, it has the names and signature lines of every member. That would be especially a nice document if you had all thirteen signing it. If you have less than thirteen, then you end up having a blank space, but you'll end up calling it a unanimous written consent at the point. But if you did have unanimity, then you could have that as kind of a

cover as well. A cover letter, the resolution/written consent and the report. The resolution is really adopting the report and its recommendations. So, that might be the sequence.

Mr. Richardson stated I thought it was interesting, and correct me if I misspeak here but, I understood you to say that the resolution would be passed at a meeting and part of the minutes. The written consent order, if we went that way, could be done after a meeting, away from a meeting.

Mr. Ford stated that's right. If you were pressed for time, and again, I don't know how this translates from Municipal Law standards but, instead of reconvening, you just get everyone to sign the same written consent. It sounds like you are going to have plenty of time because you have a meeting next month.

Mr. Ferguson stated I'm just thinking, for some reason, we're having a difficult time getting everybody here now.

Mr. Ford stated the cover letter will accomplish the same thing. You could have signatures of everybody on the cover letter.

Mr. Ferguson stated if we have a written consent order for those who are not here, you still have to track them down to get a signature.

Mr. Ford stated you could have the meeting, approve it and hopefully you have a full board at the time and then circulate documents for signature after the fact.

Mr. Burckard stated you may want to make sure everyone is willing to do that before you sit down.

Mr. Ford stated yes, absolutely.

Mr. Burckard stated some people may say no.

Mr. Ford stated no, I'm just fine with a resolution saying 11 in favor and 2 against and leave it at that.

Mr. Richardson stated let's go back to the final document, part 2.

Mr. Ferguson stated which was unchanged since we agreed on last week. I mean last month.

Mr. Liblick asked did we vote on the other one. We didn't vote on the other one.

Mr. Richardson stated we are going to vote on all three at the same time.

Mr. Richardson asked anyone have any questions? We did go over this last month.

Mr. Burckard stated this one.

Mr. Ferguson asked which one is that?

Mr. Burckard stated this is the one that was sent out. Is this and this identical?

Mr. Ford asked what's the title, I can't read it. Yes, accountability.

Mr. Burckard asked this document and this are the same?

Mr. Richardson stated they should be.

Mr. Burckard stated I want to make a comment. This is the one, I have just one thing. First of all I want to compliment Bruce. I thought he did a great job on the first one and putting this together. The only thing that I want to point out to you and you may or may not want to do something about it, I would strongly recommend you do. Is to go to the third page, last sentence, last line.

Mr. Ferguson asked is this Comptroller?

Mr. Burckard stated number seven.

Mr. Ferguson stated Financial.

Mr. Burckard stated yes, last page. Seven, start with line 55. Have all the powers and perform all the duties conferred or imposed by law upon a County Commissioner of Finance and perform such other duties required by the County Executive or County Legislature. I would insert, with the approval of the County Executive. Why? This wording, if it's enacted in the Charter, sets up a battle, civil war. Now the County Legislature has control of the Finance Commissioner and can say that I want reports done on the new casino. I want then done on this, I want then done on that. The Exec loses complete control on running his operation and staff.

Mr. Ferguson asked would it be simpler to say, required by the County Executive. In effect saying that the Legislature can't require anything.

Mr. Ford asked is it the Legislature or the Code at that point?

Mr. Burckard stated this is going to be Charter. You are changing this.

Mr. Ford stated the Charter will read this. I'm just saying is it required by the County Executive or by.

Mr. Burckard stated the question that he's asking you can also do that. I didn't know what you wanted to do.

Mr. Ferguson stated this is a JJ line. I would just drop the County Executive. Otherwise it gets very wordy.

Mr. Burckard stated you mean drop County Legislature.

Mr. Ferguson stated drop County Legislature. Because you are taking all the power away from them anyway with the addendum.

Mr. Burckard asked yes, but is the County Legislature able to do that now and now you are taking powers away from them?

Mr. Ferguson stated the office doesn't exist.

Mr. Ford stated that my blind reading of this, having not been at the last few meetings, is day to day as required by the County Exec. But the Legislature, by way of a code, can still pass laws. That would embank what the Commissioner of Finance is doing. I'm reading it as not month to month asking the Commissioner of Finance to do things, but by virtue as their role as a Legislature, pass laws. What do you think about that Paul, does that make sense?

Mr. Burckard stated two things. Number one, the smartest thing to do would be what Bruce is suggesting. Duties required by the County Executive. And take out County Legislature. Let the code address how that might be accomplished. Because you have to put language in the code that says what the approval of, what the coordination of the Exec. You can't have the Legislature. If the Legislature and the Exec are two different parties and they go to war and you have this, you got a nightmare on your hands. The code has to be written in such a matter that what the Legislature requests would be done through the offices of the County Exec. The Finance Commissioner works for the Exec., not the Legislature.

Mr. Liblick asked isn't it easier for us to say required by the County Charter and Code?

Mr. Burckard stated no.

Mr. Liblick stated it would put them against each other.

Mr. Burckard stated that's the whole point. You don't want it in here at all.

Mr. Ford stated by the County Executive or by the County law.

Mr. Burckard stated they could pass a separate law, aside from the code.

Mr. Ford stated right, but the Executive might have veto power.

Mr. Burckard stated right. Code will be written in order to make the new form of the government work. Just like the code had to be written to make this form of the government work. So, why not leave it open to putting in the code how the Legislature, because I'm going to bring up one other thing later on, can come back and ask for something through the County Exec. You can't have the Legislature be in control of the Finance Commission.

Mr. Ford stated fair enough. But if they pass a law and it overcomes a veto by the Exec,

Mr. Burckard stated in theory that could happen. The practicality of it is very very small.

Mr. Ford stated right. So, the idea that it would be required by the County Exec or by County law isn't really setting up a real battle.

Mr. Burckard stated how about as required in the County Code? Leave it at that and let them figure out how they are going to write it. Put it in the code because it belongs in the code. So, if you said let the County Executive, as the County Code.

Mr. Ford stated again the other nice thing about that is it reinforces your last point in part 3. The Legislature still has an important role here. They are not going away.

Mr. Burckard stated correct. But they can't control the staff of the Exec directly. Everything else I thought was great.

Mr. Ford stated that the one thing I noticed in this page 2, that says the County Treasurer will be replaced by a County. Is this meant to be language that is being proposed or is this a narrative of introducing the next paragraph, which says there shall be a Department of Finance. Do you understand what I'm saying? Is this Department of Finance section everything below that language that you're recommending they adopt? Are you introducing the concept, the County Treasurer will be replaced, and then you are introducing language that is kind of what you'd like to see in the charter.

Mr. Ferguson stated these were all JJ's suggestions about what the duties, sort of parameters of that department might be.

Mr. Ford stated you're not necessarily quoting from language of the charter, but we're handing them a really good draft.

Mr. Burckard stated yes, where I think he took that from, I think from, was the Ulster County Code where the Finance Commissioner has these duties. A lot of the duties that are there under the Finance Commissioner are technically correct. I went over that very carefully. In other words you would have to have specifically. Number 3 for example, number 2, number 4. These things you absolutely have to have by law. I thought that was good, just the way it was.

Mr. Ford stated but we didn't do that with Executive. We didn't layout what the duties of the Exec would be in the same way.

Mr. Ferguson stated no, this is a little drier if you will. The County Executive is a persuasive document. These are just, if you do that, here's some of the housekeeping.

Mrs. Harrison stated do we want to continue with the County Treasurer will be replaced by a Commissioner? Or do we want to soften that a little and say something to the effect, the Treasurer will transition to a Commissioner. Same line, on 36.

Mr. Burckard stated there is a transition thing where it ends on December 31st in one of these.

Mrs. Harrison stated rather than come right out here and say it.

Mr. Liblick stated instead of replaced.

Mr. Burckard stated yes, we want that in there.

Mrs. Harrison stated you wanted that as replaced or transitioned.

Mr. Liblick stated I would say transitioned.

Mr. Burckard stated the Treasurer is going to cease to exist.

Mr. Ford stated it won't really be a transition. Unless you took this up with County and you had both running in parallel.

Mrs. Harrison stated the only reason I am saying that is you are trying to get them to vote in favor of this.

Mr. Burckard stated correct.

Mrs. Harrison stated, so, it's not the final action they are voting on. When they start to agree that they are going to go to a County Exec and they are going to agree that there is going to be a Commissioner of Finance, they will come to the final realization that the County Treasurer's position goes away.

Mr. Burckard stated exactly, that's what's supposed to happen.

Mrs. Harrison stated Right. So, when you're selling this, maybe not come right out and put.

Mr. Burckard stated I don't agree. You have to tell them up front exactly what is going to occur. If the Legislature were to make a determination that they are going to go to a County Executive form of Government, and leave the elected Treasurer, then there is no more assumption that anybody's going to agree to that.

Mr. Ford stated what about the idea, in the first sentence of this memo it says, the Charter Revision Commission also recommends that the County Treasurer be an independent Comptroller and a Finance Office operating under the Executive. Which would assume most of the duties now performed by the County Treasurer. So, then later when it comes up again, say as discussed above, the County Treasurer roles would be replaced by or would be taken over by departments.

Mr. Harrison stated so that we don't get with Nancy. We want to not personalize.

Mr. Ferguson stated we want Nancy to support us. We really need Nancy to support us. If we can.

Mrs. Harrison stated I don't disagree with you, but when you are out promoting this. She's not going to be side by side saying I support this.

Mr. Ferguson stated I understand that. I'd like to jump ahead, in a way of addressing this. I'd like to jump ahead a year or two. If there were, and Andy you are probably in the best position to answer this. If there were a public referendum on the question of County Executive, which there needs to be. Correct? How detailed would that be? It's not detailed.

Mr. Richardson stated it's not detailed if you did it the way Ulster County did it. They put it very simple for the voters.

Mr. Ford stated I think you are technically wrong there. The Charter Commission met for two years, drafted a Charter and then the position was, now here's the Charter, should we adopt the Charter. So, there was a document that was being referred to.

Mr. Richardson stated my understanding, from hearing from Ulster County, was and maybe I misheard, but they said it was a simple question.

Mr. Ford stated yes, the actual ballot was. But, it's backed up by the fact that the Charter Commission had already written a Charter and made their recommendations.

Mr. Richardson stated Oh, ok, I don't disagree there.

Mr. Ford stated there was something more being was deemed, I believe, and I can get back to you.

Mr. Ferguson stated there is a reason why I asked the question and that has to do with the language here that we are going over.

My reason for asking is if the resolution goes out, Sullivan County will adopt a County form of government. It's not going to get into the weeds of all of this or not. So, that's still going to come back to the Legislature. We just have to give them guidance here.

Mr. Ford stated I believe there would have to be more than just a one sentence on a ballot for a vote to be considered. The Legislature would have to adopt something.

Mr. Ferguson stated in other words there would have to be behind it a supporting document as there was in Ulster. It wouldn't be a Charter. It would be something like that.

Mr. Ford stated I'm happy to get back to you.

Mr. Burckard stated the vote creates an elected position of the County Executive. The vote creates an elected position of the Comptroller. The vote eliminates the elected position of County Treasurer. So, the ballot would be specific and not one simple sentence because it has to address all of these issues, all at one time. Now, in theory. Do you have to have a complete document? I don't know how you would go to the public prior to the time of the vote, without having at least, a complete charter. Not the Code. Because that comes later, but the Charter.

Mr. Ford stated not the full charter, but the sections you want implemented.

Mr. Burckard stated correct.

Mr. Ford stated that's my understanding and I'm happy to get back to you.

Mr. Burckard stated there would be no way for you to answer the question. There has to be something there.

Mr. Ford stated right, what are you voting for? Because otherwise the County Executive, but then they go off and write something entirely different than you expected.

Mr. Burckard stated exactly, correct.

Mr. Richardson stated I probably disagree with that. I think that the work needs to be done before hand. Somebody has to make a presentation and explanations. But, the question becomes to the voters, not this long document that some voter is going to read in the booth and try to figure out if he should vote for this. It's going to come down to a simple line, do you or do you not agree that we should change the form of government to elected County Executive, yes or no. Now, all the details go back to the county to work out.

Mr. Ferguson stated if the Legislature says yes, let's do it, he would go to the County Attorney's office and say now write up all the Charter changes, if this document requires.

Mr. Ford stated think of it as the original Charter. You had something written before you went to vote on the Charter.

Mr. Ferguson stated so you, from the County Attorney's Office, would take over from the Revision Committee at that point and do the work.

Mr. Burckard stated all the public presentations are more simplistic. You are not standing there reading the Charter. You are talking about we're having a County Exec. Well if somebody has a question, yes the Charter would address that. I have it here if you want to take that kind of thing.

Mr. Ford stated what I don't know is whether or not the voting materials that are available have to reprint the whole thing.

Mr. Richardson stated Peggy do you have a comment?

Mrs. Harrison stated when we vote now on a law, a proposition or anything, there is an existing document that fully goes through everything. But it is only a one line item on the ballot. You can go and look and read all of it. So, The Charter, any amendment we do would be finalized and even though it might be a one line on the ballot, there would be a document if they

chose to research it, they could actually see and vote.

Mr. Ford stated a local law would change the Charter.

Mr. Burckard stated but wouldn't the code support it.

Mr. Ford stated remember back to what Bea said and I've read those minutes a couple of times. Once they decide to adopt the Charter. In this case it's adopt an amendment. Then there is the implementation period before it becomes effective. During that time her office had to make sure that the rest of the probe and if there had to be other Charter amendments. Remember, the Legislature can do other Charter changes without a referendum, if that required.

Mr. McPhillips stated so then like the change that they were suggesting on the end of page 3, where it said or in the code, your department would know that that was a need to be changed.

Mr. Ford stated The Code is constantly being changed because every time there's a local law part .

Mr. Burckard stated I'm trying to read 17 pages and the code is 44. The Code implements the provisions of the Charter. We're talking in general terms, more specifics of the carrying the code. The Code can be amended without public referendum. The Charter is not as easily amended without a public referendum. Certain things are allowed and many things are not. The Code is an operational document just the like the rules of the board and other things. As long as the Code doesn't conflict, is what the charter wants.

Mr. Liblick stated should we have changes to the Charter as attached to this? The new Charter?

Mr. Richardson stated we already have a lot here for them to digest. To make it more, I don't think we're going to gain anything. I think that Cheryl made a comment very early on. Try to keep it as simple as you could, give it to them. Then your department would work out what changes need to be made to implement this thing. But, I think it's for us to get it to.

Mr. Ford stated I'll argue both sides. As Bruce just said at some point you guys decided to make this more of a persuasive document, than necessarily a here's what we want you to adopt. I think that has a lot of merit to it. As long as you lay out in there the parameters of what you expect that position to do. So that anything that is ultimately done in the name of doing it, because of the Commission, you know jives. They can say we like this idea but we didn't like that. Which goes to the other point which is, even if you did write a page and a half of what the County Exec is, it's there for illustration of understanding. Not because you have a realistic expectation it's going to be adopted exactly as written. As everyone has said, we will then be officially asked to study this, look at it and think about in ways that we have not been doing. We have been answering specific questions. There could be lots of things that change from that document. On the one hand it can be helpful in focusing their attention on things. On the other hand it takes away from maybe the persuasive argument. My last comment would be you kind of do that on the Comptroller and then you also reiterate it in part 3, the remaining role of the Legislature. So, you've kind of given them a good taste of everything anyhow.

Mr. Burckard stated the practical thing is you give it to them simplistically like we are talking about and then at some point, they're going to get a group together. Not us, but whoever they desire. The County Attorneys. Whomever else they're going to appoint to actually try to write the specific language that's required to change the Charter to implement this. They'd be much better served if they have a group of outsiders. If they do it internally with just a few, it's not going to work.

Mr. Ferguson stated question for Andy. If you were sitting there in the County Attorney's Office and this landed on your desk, would you say, ok, I can work with this. I can go through the Charter and make the changes. Would you be reasonably satisfied with what's here? If it's a good enough template for you to do your job?

Mr. Ford stated before us you have the Legislators. Detail for them to understand what the Executive is going to be able to do. I know there was a document in one of my memos. Was it not where we accepted executive duties and functions.

Mr. Richardson stated you did, I think on one of yours early on.

Mr. Ferguson stated do you want that as an addendum to part 1?

Mr. Ford stated maybe on an addendum. You could fold it in with bullet points. The same way you did with the Comptroller. Again, you are not necessarily saying adopt this. But you are saying these are the main things we see for a County Executive.

Mr. Ferguson stated that this so far, it takes the pros and cons, is really what it tries to address. We could put after that, role of County Executive as described in the Ulster County Charter.

Mr. Burckard stated another point of view is, what Bruce did, I thought was excellent. The more you try to specifically put in your initial presentation, the duties of the County Executive, the more they are going to realize that's going to happen when that person walks in the door.

Mr. Ford stated going back to Bruce's question. If they say we want the County Attorney's Office to take this and look at it and decide. At that point, if I were in the office, I'd probably say, ok, what did they look at? I know what they looked at. So, we would start there. So, we'd be recreating at some degree. Again, I could argue it both ways. You could that the audience understands what you mean by a County Executive by detailing the duties you see is most important or you can lay those out there.

Mr. Ferguson stated you are suggesting this is something Andy, we can lift from one of your reports.

Mr. Ford stated I'm trying to remember the context of the memo. November 10th. Draft local law to provide for. We had being enacted. It then said article 3 to replace article 3 County Manager, County Exec, election of qualifications, terms of office, powers and duties. It goes a through p of the duties. Then appointment of department heads a through h. Deputy County Executive, Advisory Committees.

Mr. Ferguson stated this is a document you created?

Mr. Ford stated yes. At your request I created something larger than Ulster and Montgomery County also. Just to give you something.

Mr. Ferguson stated I think we should catch that at the end.

Mr. Ford stated part 1.

Mr. Ferguson stated yes, part 1b.

Mr. Ford stated or appendix.

Mr. Ferguson stated I think appendix is better.

Mr. Burckard stated the problem with that is you may not want to connect to everything that he's talking about that's in there. We have to differentiate that we're not recommending that. It's an illustration only.

Mr. Ferguson stated and if prepared by the County Attorney's Office.

Mr. McPhillips stated my question is. If we approve this, let's say we do it next month. Because just how time works out. There's an election in November. Where's our next avenue. Let's say they don't accept it or it just sits and waits and waits and waits. If we are going to go out to the public and try get our own referendum to put it on the ballot by vote or the petitioning. What's the next step? We're assuming it's going to be accepted.

Mr. Richardson stated hold that thought, because we will discuss that at the end. Let's finish up. We're satisfied with part 2. Let's finish up part 2.

Mr. Ferguson stated 1 and 2 are done. Part 3 we have not looked at.

Mr. Richardson stated the only change in part 3.

Mr. Ferguson stated we've never discussed that.

Mr. Ford stated the only change is the entire document.

Mr. Ferguson stated yes, we have to go through this. You have the copy with the yellow highlights, which is important because those in that section I did not feel at all confident that they were unchanged. That's something we have to pay close attention to when we get to those areas. We should all read this carefully and talk through because no one's seen this.

Mr. Richardson stated so go through it and I'll tell you what changes.

Mr. Ferguson stated you are on the Legislature one now?

Mr. Burckard stated a lot came out of the Charter.

Mr. Ferguson stated its all Charter language. But whether I put it in the right place or not.

Mr. Burckard stated I checked everything you did. There's just a couple of points and I was working off of this.

Mr. Ferguson stated that the only change on the new one is the garbled text on the appointed committee there.

Mr. Richardson stated on the new one it starts out, on the one you have tonight, there is a change that starts at line 83. It's just because the wording that was in the one that Andy worked on, JJ worked on, it wasn't correct on whom the members would be to make up the set committee.

Mr. Ferguson stated the nonexistent committee.

Mr. Richardson stated right. So, that's all the correction. All that was is I took the wording, I cut and pasted it again, from the Charter, and I plugged it in and the wording begins on line 84 and goes to line 88.

Mr. Burckard stated so that's identical out of the Charter.

Mr. Richardson stated that is out of the Charter.

Mr. Ferguson stated everything here in italics is directly lifted from the Charter.

Mr. McPhillips stated one question I have is, why do you go code 2.02 and then you throw in c203 and then back. Page 3.

Mr. Richardson stated I was confused too, but I figured it out.

Mr. Ferguson stated everything above line 58 and above is things that are unchanged. In other words those duties are identical. They are completely unaffected.

Mr. Richardson stated that's why you'll find. If you struggled with this. If you go down the letters and all of a sudden you go l and you skip to p, where's that? He's telling me I have to correct that, where's that?

Mr. Ferguson stated these are the altered ones now. They've been pulled out.

Mr. McPhillips stated then should it say c202 changes or something?

Mr. Burckard stated the way he did it, if you follow carefully, he did it exactly the way it should be done. It's perfect.

Mr. Burckard asked I have a question, if I may.

Mr. Ferguson stated we could underline the sentence.

Mr. Burckard stated right in the very beginning. If you look at the very beginning of it and you say will continue to make laws and levy taxes and will have the added responsibility of providing oversight of executive actions. This is the very first sentence. Where does that come from?

Mr. Ferguson stated that's our sentence.

Mr. Burckard stated but where does that come from?

Mrs. Harrison stated the ability to oversight.

Mr. Burckard stated there's no authority for the Legislature to have oversight, but with a County Executive. In fact, I would infer a real serious problem, number one. The oversight to the County Executive comes from the general public. Whether they want to vote the County Exec in or out. The Legislature will not have the added responsibility of providing oversight of executive action. You have to put that in the charter to give them the authority and you wouldn't put that into the charter because that's a direct conflict.

Mr. Ferguson stated again, this is all new to me and that's why I wanted people who knew more about this than I do. My feeling, I was thinking of the federal model here and the role that Congress plays by the oversight of the Executive Branch. They are not there to be watchdogs in a certain extent apart from everything else. If they think the executive is going off the tracks, is it not their responsibility to say wait a minute, what are you doing?

Mr. Burckard stated they can impeach him.

Mr. Ford stated there's the check and balance of they write the laws, the executive implements them. So, there's that check. That's not necessarily oversight. So, I take Paul's point. It will continue to make the law and levy taxes.

Mr. Burckard stated this infers something that doesn't exist and couldn't.

Mr. Ford stated well not directly, right.

Mr. Burckard stated so if we put a period after the word taxes.

Mr. Ferguson stated is there anything nice we can say about what they can't. Sort of like Congress does.

Mr. Liblick stated they don't oversee. They're not a watchdog.

Mr. Burckard stated what helps what you are trying to get to, go to page 2. Because you go from c202 to c203 and then back to c202. Go to line 89 and 90. I don't know if you have this one or not.

Mr. Ferguson stated what's the heading?

Mr. Ford asked what's the letter that they are using in that section?

Mr. Burckard stated this is one of the things that you took out. What I'm recommending is you do not do that. There's a reason why. The Legislature would want to retain the ability, on its own, to hire a CPA and bring them in to do a full audit of general purposes and financial statements and whatever else they may direct. You don't want to remove k. You want to leave k because it's a power the Legislature needs to retain. One of the reasons why you need to retain it is because you don't know what is going to happen between the exec and the comptroller and the Legislature if there are different parties and you got what's going on in Ulster County right now. So, you want to keep k, you don't want to take k out.

Mr. Ferguson stated we want to move k back into.

Mr. Burckard stated what this says you are taking it out.

Mr. Liblick stated where?

Mr. Burckard stated the following powers will be altered. No, you don't want to alter k. You want to keep k.

Mr. Ford stated, tell me this. Would the executive then prepare the budget, never hire its own outside auditor. The Comptroller would do its function of checks. But, the only party to do the official county financials would be retained by the Legislature?

Mr. Burckard stated no the exec could do that. All this does, if you put it back into context, is to have them contract annually with a CPA to conduct an audit of the general purpose or the financial statements. They can do that on an annual basis. They get their own report. The exec can order any report done by anybody at any time.

Mr. Richardson stated so we're saying k is going to go back into between j.

Mr. Burckard stated the only other thing you may want to do Bruce. You did this so that's why I'm adjusting it to you. With k you may want to insert one word.

Mr. Ferguson stated I don't want to insert a word there because that's the charter language. We can seek to write a sentence around it.

Mr. Burckard stated so you want to keep that, alright. Keep that exactly the way it is. In the new charter you would insert the word, in front of contract, may contract. You want to make it an option for the Legislature and do not take the power away from them. This power is very critical.

Mr. Ferguson stated we'll leave this language for now when they get to stage 2 and we can tweak it.

Mr. Burckard stated you want to take this out of where it is and put it back up in here where it's c202 of the law.

Mr. Richardson stated then we can delete his question?

Mr. Ferguson stated yes, that was just a question I didn't know anything about this. Was there another question Brian, that you have on the sheets?

Mr. McPhillips stated the only thing you had read was the role of the Legislature. Legislature will continue to represent their districts and the Legislature.

Mr. Ferguson stated that was the addition to satisfy a Legislator that Steve spoke to. So, that was added on. There's a sentence missing from this document that was in the one circulated here the other day. That is the one with Steve's sentence that was added there.

Mr. Richardson stated that should be in the latest one.

Mr. Ferguson stated its right in the very top. It's after and levy taxes. Then it says Legislators will continue to represent their districts and the Legislature and make laws and levy taxes. It's a new top to that sentence.

Mr. Ford stated you think that was in the version you sent me and I pasted.

Mr. Richardson stated I don't think I sent you a version of that. I don't know who sent that version.

Mr. Ferguson stated I think we're ok now. It's just that sentence has to be added in here to satisfy. So, all the changes now are in the first draft. We've got a deletion and an add and a block move of item k. Paul, you read it carefully. You didn't find anything. Everything else seemed to fall in the right areas.

Mr. Burckard stated I put the charter right beside this and I went line by line. Item by item from charter to this back, etc. I thought you did an excellent job.

Mr. McPhillips stated now this thing that says Legislators will continue to represent, we're going to add that somewhere between 8, 9 and 10.

Mr. Ferguson stated on this part 3 document, we're going to add a sentence to represent Steve's concern.

Mr. Ford stated and delete the part that says that will have added responsibility of providing oversight.

Mr. Richardson stated delete that and put a period after taxes and then we are going to move k, page 3 back into page 2 here.

Mr. Ford stated its k because that's what it is in the Charter. We've got k because we've numbered it ourselves.

Mr. Ferguson stated those are the changes.

Mrs. Harrison stated I'm questioning why we would remove m and n completely from the Legislature. It is their responsibility. What we're looking at is not the County Exec having the legal ability to do this. We're really only wanting the County Exec to be responsible for creating this.

Mr. Burckard stated the reason I didn't raise that is because I thought that's what you agreed to do at the last meeting. So, I wasn't disagreeing with you. I just didn't comment on that. I thought that's what you decided to do.

Mrs. Harrison stated no.

Mr. Ferguson stated review, adopt and update a strategic plan. One reason I think it makes sense to have it here is the Legislature has been incapable of doing that.

Mrs. Harrison stated they have been incapable of creating it. It's the responsibility of the executive to create it, but, it is only the Legislature that has the power to make it law. So, they still have to adopt it.

Mr. Ferguson stated is the Strategic Plan a law? It's not a law, is it?

Mr. Ford stated it's in the Charter. The Charter is there and if it hasn't been done, it hasn't been done by the only party that could do it right now, which is the Legislature. What they say is right. If there's an executive to implement things.

Mr. Ferguson stated I think we do want to leave it here, but I think we want to modify. They're incapable of doing this job.

Mr. Liblick stated it doesn't matter. We can't tell them what they're capable or incapable of.

Mrs. Harrison stated but it says. Review, adopt and update. If the Legislature decides against the County Exec on something, then they take it to the public.

Mr. Ferguson stated bear with me for a minute. This is a section of things that will be altered not removed entirely from, but altered from the County Charter. So, down below, that's the chartered language. Line 75 and 76, Strategic Plan will become the duty of the County Executive. Instead of saying that we know they failed to do it, why don't we go on to say, it will still be the responsibility of the Legislature to review and adopt.

Mrs. Harrison stated I think what you are trying to say is the Strategic Plan will become the responsibility of the County Exec to formulate and implement.

Mr. Ferguson stated the Legislature will still have a role in reviewing it.

Mrs. Harrison stated adopting it.

Mr. Ferguson stated in reviewing and adopting. Again, this is altered not remove from entirely.

Mr. Ford stated would be altered or would potentially be altered under a County Exec.

Mr. Burckard stated it goes with what Peggy just said. That you have to put it into the Charter as a required duty of the Exec. Otherwise you have nothing.

Mr. Ferguson stated I don't know. We'd have to go back and see what the duties implemented then for the County Executive. That's one of them.

Mr. McPhillips stated does that create an inefficient executive if he tries to create it but then the county doesn't adopt it?

Mrs. Harrison stated he's going to formulate a budget around it.

Mr. Ferguson stated how about adopting and implementing.

Mr. Burckard stated in a real you don't need it. You know why. Because a tough exec is going to do it automatically. He's going to do all this without any requirements.

Mr. Ferguson stated let me ask you about this as sample language to see if this satisfies Peg's concern and others.

Mr. Burckard stated that's why I agree to take it out.

Mr. Ferguson stated adopting and implementing strategic plan will become the duty of the County Executive. The Legislature will still be responsible for reviewing and adopting the Strategic Plan.

Instead of adopting I meant formulating and implementing will become the duty of the County Executive.

Mr. Burckard stated but then you are going to mandate that to the County Executive. Do you want to do that?

Mr. Ford stated what you could do.

Mr. Burckard stated maybe you're right Bruce, but, I'm asking a question here.

Mr. Ford stated what if you introduce this section by saying, this subsection as saying, certain other duties would have to be divided between the Legislature and the Executive, in order to accomplish the current provisions in the Charter. You put it out there that, obviously, we're not going to micromanage exactly how this would be done, but, it would need to be addressed. Or is that too much.

Mrs. Harrison stated I think it's too much. The reason why it doesn't exist now is because the Legislature doesn't identify a need for it. The County Manager being hired as an employee doesn't have the strength to do it automatically.

Mr. Burckard stated can I insert something? They have absolutely no authority to do that. The Charter requires it and they are in blatant violation of the Charter.

Mr. Ferguson stated as I understand it, the last two Legislatures, at least, has been incapable of performing this function. Simply incapable of doing it.

Mrs. Harrison stated what it comes down to is the County Exec is autonomous by virtue of the elected body and that is truly the only difference that we are asking for. We might massage words a little, but, he has the responsibility and if he doesn't perform, he will be removed by the people.

Mr. Ferguson stated right. I think we all agree that it only makes sense to have the County Executive formulate and he must implement the Strategic Plan. The question before us is what if any role we want the Legislature to have here.

Mrs. Harrison stated we want it to become a law and they have the only power by the State of New York.

Mr. Ford stated yes, but what is the Strategic Plan. If the Strategic Plan includes having to pass certain laws, then the Executive is not going to be able to implement that.

Mr. Richardson stated I looked quickly through here. There is no mention of a Strategic Plan in this list of normal duties of the County Executive.

Mr. Ford stated it might need to be altered under the executive form of government. Just to put it out there.

Mr. Ferguson stated it might have to be altered.

Mr. Burckard stated would Peggy be happy if you said the Legislature may adopt and therefore continue to update a Strategic Plan, etc.? Make it an option for them to do it?

Mrs. Harrison stated no, because they can vote it down. They could say no at any time.

Mr. Ford stated so do you want to, like the budget.

Mrs. Harrison stated it says this is what we're looking at and we're going to plan for this accordingly.

Mr. Ferguson stated it is a budgetary projection.

Mrs. Harrison stated correct.

Mr. Ferguson stated it's even in this language here. Programs and physical priorities.

Mr. Richardson stated to me it would make sense to come out of executive department. It has to be reviewed, accepted and adopted by the Legislature.

Mr. Ford stated the same way they do with the budget. They'll prepare it and the Legislature will adopt it.

Mr. Ferguson stated the Legislature will review and adopt the plan.

Mr. Richardson stated I think so and prepare it.

Mrs. Harrison stated if the exec is going to create it then he is going to plan.

Mr. Richardson stated if you watch Mike Hein, if you go back to Ulster. Mike Hein certainly has a strategic plan for Ulster County. Whether it's the health issues or whether its transportation issues.

Mr. Burckard stated and execs do that and they split them up. They have plans for what they are dealing with right now.

Mr. Ford stated but is it even in the Charter, if they do that or they just do it.

Mr. Burckard stated they just do it.

Mr. Ford stated well maybe it's not even something to be in the Charter.

Mr. Burckard state that's exactly something I said in the beginning.

Mrs. Harrison stated no, but if you go back to the matrix you'll see that in Ulster County, it is the responsibility of the Legislature to review and adopt the strategic plan.

Mr. Burckard stated yes, but one that's created.

Mr. Ford stated it's certainly the case that they have to adopt a budget. I'd have to go back and look at the Charter. I can pull the Charter for Ulster County.

Mr. Burckard stated the budget is an entirely different thing. Normally there are projections for budgets that the finance commissioners do.

Mr. Richardson stated I would like to see it in there. It's the County Executive's responsibility to present a strategic plan to the Legislature for consideration, modification and adoption. Something like that.

Mrs. Harrison stated you don't want a County Exec to be voted out of office and a plan in place that is in agreement that everybody wants to have done, be thrown out because it's not approved or adopted by the Legislature. If you don't have it adopted by the Legislature because it is in Ulster County where it is not a strategic plan. When the County Exec changes, all

those programs in place can simply be eliminated.

Mr. Ferguson stated so you do want the Legislature. Again, formulating and implementing a strategic plan will become the duty of the County Executive. The Legislature will be responsible reviewing, possibly modifying and adopting the plan.

Mrs. Harrison stated I don't think you need to put in modifying because I think that happens in the normal course of it.

Mr. Ferguson stated for reviewing and adopting the plan. It's cleaner language right.

Mr. McPhillips stated I have a question. You're saying that if the outgoing County Executive had a plan and all these positions created around that plan, you want to auth that change. But what if the new exec comes in and wants his ideas, creates his own strategic plan which is better than what the last guy had. Is he not going to be allowed to do his plan now? So, you are rendering the new guy useless?

Mrs. Harrison stated no.

Mr. Burckard stated it gets worse than that because the plans are normally part of the budget. When the exec presents the budget and it's adopted by the Legislature, the budget contains a lot of the things you are talking about.

Mrs. Harrison stated yes but the budget is only for one year. If you put something in that you are planning to do. Formulate a five year plan and you're not there yet, and you've got an election.

Mr. Ford stated isn't this the case that something that never should have been in the Charter to begin with and should be something that is a function of a good executive.

Mr. Burckard stated yes, possibly and I'll tell you the counterbalance to this is. They may adopt a plan and a new Legislature comes in and says I'm not going to fund that when it's all in the budget.

Mr. Ford stated this has a six year capital plan. Why not a five year capital plan. I didn't see anything in the Ulster one. I didn't do a word search, I just glanced at it.

Mrs. Harrison stated under the Legislature you will see m in the Ulster County.

Mr. Ferguson stated we could say we recommend that m be stricken from the Charter and note that the Legislature has failed to implement it, formulate a financial plan for some years.

Mr. Liblick stated like the 2020 plan.

Mr. Ferguson stated I don't see where it says a six year plan.

Mrs. Harrison stated down in m he's talking about.

Mr. Ferguson stated a standing committee. I think we recommend it be done away with because they had never done it.

Mrs. Harrison stated just because they didn't do something doesn't mean they shouldn't do it. This is good management.

Mr. Fergusons stated our Legislature is incapable.

Mrs. Harrison stated some of our Legislature might be incapable but the Legislative body.

Mr. Ferguson stated it's the structural dynamic. If the County Manager was told to do these things, he could do it. It's just we don't have nine people who have been able to come up with these essentially executive documents.

Mrs. Harrison stated it shouldn't work that way. It should work that the County Manager is instructed to what comes before then and then they approve it. But because there's been a lack of whatever, they're not in place.

Mr. Richardson stated let's see if we can get some kind of agreement. Let's ask first. I'm going to ask three questions. Do we want to address this strategic plan issue and this document.

Mr. Ferguson stated we have to.

Mr. Richardson stated Bruce? Yes? Brian?

Mr. McPhillips stated if we have to.

Mr. Richardson stated Mike you have a thought?

Mr. Levinson stated yes.

Mr. Burckard stated we do because on the next page it says strategic planning will become the duties of the County Exec.

Mr. Richardson stated now we need to address it. So, the next question becomes do we think that this should be a responsibility of an elected County Executive. Bruce?

Mr. Ferguson stated yes.

Mr. Richardson stated Mike?

Mr. Levinson stated yes.

Mr. Burckard stated yes and that's what you said here,

Mr. Richardson stated Norm what do you think? And I say yes. So then we need to put wording in here that it's a responsibility of the County Executive to present to the Legislature for review, adoption.

Mr. Ferguson stated it will be the responsibility of the County Executive to present a strategic plan to the Legislature for review and adoption.

Mr. Ford stated yes the capital plan is a six year plan. That's the next one.

Mr. Ferguson stated it will be the responsibility of the County Executive to present a strategic plan to the Legislature. Are we happy with this? For review and adoption.

(discussion between Mrs. Harrison and Mr. Burckard inaudible)

Mr. Ferguson stated here's how it now reads. This is Larry's language at the top here. It will be the responsibility of the County Executive to present a strategic plan to the Legislature for review and adoption.

Mr. Ford stated so that covers m.

Mr. Ferguson stated that's m. That's all we are going to say about it. That's all we need to say about it.

Mr. Burckard stated no time frames.

Mr. Ferguson stated so then we are up to n.

Mr. Richardson stated are we going to take out that language in 75 and 76 or are you going to leave it there for an explanation.

Mr. Ferguson stated that language was dropped and it's the language I just read instead.

Mr. Ford stated that really introduces m, it doesn't come after m.

Mr. Ferguson stated that's a follow up to m. The way it is is the code language first and then the comment on the code's language.

Mr. Richardson stated so then m deals with a six year capital plan. This is wording out of the Charter?

Mr. Ferguson stated everything in italics is just the Charter. Then at the end of it the only comment on that, again the capital plan will become the responsibility of the executive branch, that is the only comment on all of that language about this committee that's never existed as far as I am concerned.

Mr. Richardson stated the wording, the makeup of that committee, came out of the Charter word for word.

Mr. Ferguson stated everything in italics is Charter, word for word.

Mr. Burckard stated when this got done originally and we decided to go with a manager and not go with an exec. We had a tremendous amount of debates over that. We had execs here in this room. On and on have we examined very very thoroughly. One of the things was we were making a tremendous change. Get rid of the supervisors. Putting the Legislature in. We went with the manager because we felt getting through the initial part of it would work the best. Some of these things that are here normally would have been in for the execs. We put it in for the Legislature to try to get some of this stuff adopted so it wouldn't be forgotten. It would be done. That's why this language is sitting here. I know Peg's having an awful hard time with it. But when you go to the exec this stuff normally would come out because that now sits in his lap.

Mrs. Harrison stated but it didn't in the Ulster County. So, I question what you are saying as to why you were saying it. It might have happened here, but Ulster County's Legislative powers are identical to our current Legislative powers except for one line. That is hiring a County Manager.

Mr. Burckard stated because why? Because they copied ours.

Mrs. Harrison stated why would they if they went to a county exec?

Mr. Ford stated the first power under the Legislature in Ulster County is to make appropriations, levy taxes, incur indebtedness, adopt a budget including a capital program. So, the drafting of it, that's where the exec would do it. It's the adoption that's with the Legislature.

Mrs. Harrison stated correct. That is the only.

Mr. Ford stated here it says and establish and maintain a committee that will review a six year, well that doesn't sound right. The capital plan itself would be a job of the executive.

Mr. Ferguson stated yes and that's our only comment. Capital plan under the responsibility of the executive. Then you have the council of government which doesn't exist. We recommend eliminating that provision altogether because it's like an appendix or something.

Mrs. Harrison stated let me ask you this. How does the County Exec have the power to spend money outside of what he is budgeted?

Mr. Burckard stated he doesn't. Depends on circumstances.

Mrs. Harrison stated not an emergency, under program. How does he legally spend money?

Mr. Burckard stated not authorized under the budget?

Mrs. Harrison stated correct.

Mr. Burckard stated in theory he shouldn't be doing it.

Mrs. Harrison stated exactly.

Mrs. Harrison stated that's why the Legislature has to have the power to approve and adopt the budget and strategic plan.

Mr. Ford stated and the capital plan at least.

Mrs. Harrison stated otherwise you are going to have a lot of unfunded vacancies.

Mr. Burckard stated the one thing I disagree with what she said is, now it shifts so that the exec comes in with proposed plans and incorporates that into budget.

Mr. Ferguson stated let me just read the first responsibility of the Legislature in the code which is unchanged if we go to the County Executive. Make appropriates, levy taxes, incur indebtedness, authorize contracts and adopt the county budget. That is still the responsibility of the Legislature. One of their most important responsibilities.

Mrs. Harrison stated you're assuming the planning is always monetary. Planning is not necessarily a money thing.

Mr. Ferguson stated I'm not assuming anything. I'm reading the language of the Charter because you thought up spending money.

Mrs. Harrison stated strategic planning is not necessarily a monetary.

Mr. Ford stated didn't we just say we were going to propose and then adopt. Propose by Exec and adopt by the Legislature. Isn't that already in agreement.

Mr. Ferguson stated yes, we just went through that.

Mr. Richardson stated why wouldn't the capital plan be treated the same way.

Mrs. Harrison stated I disagree and the reason why it's six years is that, Paul made a statement that the reason why these were in here, in the Ulster County powers for the Legislature when they went to County Exec, was because they copied.

Mr. Burckard stated no. No I said in ours. This is out of our Charter.

Mrs. Harrison stated correct, but I did a comparison.

Mr. Ford stated Peg's referring to her comparison from last September. Can I just point out that we are all in agreement.

Mr. Ferguson stated to complete this document we recommend in o that we drop the thing about council of government that doesn't exist anyway. We are operating without it, why do we want a council of government mandated. The last item q, has to do with the Treasurer and Manager not agreeing on the revenue. Here's what I'd like you guys to think about is the 108 to 110 an accurate reflection of how we should handle q.

Mr. Ford stated the narrative.

Mr. Ferguson stated the last three lines of this document. County Exec will be responsible. Do we want to say this correct in what we are saying.

Mr. Burckard stated yes and the reason is because the commissioner of finance works under the exec and he's going to be taking that and presenting that.

Mr. Ford stated should be say that q should be eliminated.

Mr. Ferguson stated we're just saying what happens. You can say eliminated.

Mr. Ford stated you can say Treasurer and County Manager. Both of them won't exist.

Mr. Ferguson stated that's how it worked under the old Charter. Under the new Charter the County Executive is going to

present the budget to the Legislature and the Legislature will act on it.

Mrs. Harrison stated can I ask to put draft 2 now when we get this rather, because you don't know what draft it is.

Mr. Ferguson stated yes or stamp it, something like that.

Mrs. Harrison stated every time you change it, you put a draft number so we know what we are looking at.

Mr. Richardson stated let's vote, just make it informal, we're going to vote on accepting these documents presented tonight with the changes we have agreed on and those drafts will be circulated. Bruce you are going to work on them? Then when you're done with them, are you going to send them out to all of us?

Mr. Ford stated I will if you want me to.

Mr. Richardson stated okay, is that fine? Ok, so, then I'd like a vote to accept these three documents.

Vote to accept the three documents. Voted on and unanimously carried 8-0.

Mr. Richardson stated we talked about the presentation that JJ and I did. We talked about the presentation to the County Legislators. Again these documents are going to be circulated so at the next meeting we are going to be able to vote and be done with at that point. To be prepared at that point to whatever meeting we can present it, will come out at the next meeting.

Mr. Ford stated it sounds to me like the only thing to be left at the next meeting is to develop a powerpoint based on the final report that would be part of the presentation, if you decide to go that route. JJ mentioned the powerpoint. You may decide to just talk.

Mrs. Harrison stated I think it's important to kindly guide them through what their responsibilities, or how they are empowered right now, because when I met with them, they thought by approving to sign a letter, they changed the Charter. One of the comments to me was that they voted on a deadline. Well, in the Charter when they did the initial resolution and in the Charter there is no timeframe to this commission, but they subsequently sent us a letter putting a timeframe on, which they voted on to sign.

Mr. Ferguson stated the full Legislature voted on it?

Mrs. Harrison stated I don't know how many people signed it. I think it was only five. In the discussion clearly, they did not realize that there was no timeframe. For them to put a timeframe on the Charter Commission, to do this project, and give us a deadline, they would have had to go to a Public Hearing to amend the Charter to allow them to do it. There is no timeline. They couldn't have just created one. The Charter doesn't allow for that. The resolution that was created, naming us, didn't prevent them either. We need to reiterate to them how regulations and laws work.

Mr. Richardson stated no, that's what the attorneys do.

Mr. Ferguson stated I think there is one other thing we should do though. I think coincident with submitting this with our public hearing, I think we need an ad in the Democrat and Reporter that makes our case.

Mr. Richardson stated no, it's not fair until after they've digested it.

Mr. Ferguson stated right, after the hashing out of the Legislature.

Mr. Richardson stated JJ and I specifically did not present details to that group last week because I didn't feel it was fair to present stuff to that group that hadn't been presented to the Legislature. It was more of a general discussion.

Mr. Ferguson stated I didn't say step ahead of the Legislature. I said follow. We make the presentation and it will be reported and the next week there should our reasoning, after two years we came to this conclusion. If it ends up being a public decision, a public referendum, we have to inform the public.

Mr. Ford stated you do have a webpage on the County website. So when this report is final you should put it out there.

Mr. Ferguson stated that's another thing that should be in our public letter is we encourage you to read the minutes and listen to the testimony all of which has been recorded.

Mr. Richardson stated it would be a little difficult, we've had a long discussion this evening. It's unfortunate that some of the members are not here. It's tough to get caught up if you haven't been a part of the discussion but, hopefully, they'll read it.

Mr. Ford stated if you can get me anything before this weekend, I might be able to do something and get it out.

Mr. Ferguson stated as soon as I can.

Mr. Ford stated you can email me.

Mr. Richardson stated any other questions.

Mr. McPhillips stated one about what are we going to do if they don't accept it. What's our timeframe?

Mr. Richardson stated let's be very positive about this thing. They are going to accept it, in some form or other. I would say, and we've discussed this before, I think we should meet one time following the presentation that we make, not the submission. The presentation that we make to the Legislature, we should have one meeting and we'll have a feeling on how it went and then we plan what do we do. At that point in time our responsibility is done.

Mr. Liblick stated can I talk about that. When Josh came to us, he had suggestions to make recommendations about changing the Charter. Even if they consider a County Executive, it's not going to happen in referendum for at least a year, two years. So, I think we have to have a meeting just to go over his suggestions to the Charter so we could compare and see if we want to make those recommendations to the Legislature. There's more work then to be done.

Mr. McPhillips stated the only reason I brought it up is because when I first got on this, I forget who said it, I said why did it stop and they said well we made our presentation. So, if there's no deadline to this commission, I think that it shouldn't have stalled the last time because from what I understand they were making recommendations the last time the charter commission met for County Executive. It went nowhere and was never followed up on. I think we've done so much research.

Mr. Richardson stated don't forget, our mission is to review it, but to make recommendations as we see necessary, or required, we submit it to them. Whether they accept it or they don't accept it, it is no longer our responsibility. Officially. We end our role here.

Mr. Liblick stated what about the other things that we went over.

Mr. Richardson stated if you want to make other recommendations, we could go on forever.

Mr. Liblick stated it's not going on forever, in all honesty. Whether we support the County manager form of government or not. The County Manager came before us, we sat at the meeting in the other office, and we went line by line on recommendations that he made. We went through that document. Shouldn't we in all honesty at least review it on our own after we're done so we can say, should we suggest that to the Legislature? Yes, you could argue with me they have the power, then what's the point of a charter review commission. What's the point of him coming to us making those recommendations to us.

Mr. Ferguson stated Bill and I actually discussed this. I absolutely disagree with Bill's point, that it makes sense to get into the weeds with these little details. For several reasons. First of all, we have a very big item on our plate. I don't think we should do anything but put all our energy into getting to this one fundamental, actually two changes getting back into the staggered terms. This fundamental change through all our efforts should be on that, anyone in the Legislature, the County Manager, they can all go through and do those little line things that they want. If we throw all of that stuff in, with this, this important work that we do is going to be diluted and lost. Let's have a simple clean message. County Executive. That's what we should be saying. Let everyone associate our review with the County Executive. That's what we want to do.

Mr. Ford stated Bill I think you answered your own question and Bruce had added to it a little bit. He can go the legislators and he can go to Cheryl. I believe, in fact, they have been working on other changes that don't require a referendum, in the meantime, to both the charter and the code. I think they have been doing that off and on since he met with you. I don't know the state of it. It may be that you want to reach out to him and say you came to us, we're about to finalize our report, are these things being handled. Do you want us to look at something else before we finish and see what he says, because he may say no, I'm fine.

Mr. McPhillips stated I agree with both but in different concepts. I agree that we're pushing the County Executive. We want that through. I also think that we are not done just because we present the County Executive. I think it's a larger argument as opposed to staggered terms, which we gave them already. Now we get the County Executive. Then we go for the other changes. However, as Paul stated from the beginning, if this doesn't go the way that we're suggesting, I think we have a responsibility to the taxpayers of the county that we then take it upon ourselves to do that public vote to get it done. So, that's my question, because I don't get the feeling that It's going to be all warm and fuzzy. Especially with some of the other changes that they wanted to make. So I know in my head what is the next and then when do you start that planning.

Mr. Richardson stated just go back a little bit in one of our early meetings. We were advised that we are not an advocacy. That's not our mission. We don't have any legal authority to advocate for position of the public. Our mission is to make a recommendation to the county. Once that's done and we no longer are speaking on behalf of the commission, we can do anything we want as a private citizen. Or we form another group and call it what you will.

Mr. Liblick stated I just wanted to add two things. The last meeting Steve Altman offered his office, that if we have to meet after this, to continue on. Number two. We must put in this report, staggered terms. We have to have a document. We never gave them a document.

Mr. Richardson stated we did.

Mr. Ford stated it was a proposal.

Mr. Liblick stated it was a proposal.

Mr. Ford stated there was not an actual narrative go to with it.

Mr. Richardson stated but there was a resolution that we submitted. It should be noted that somewhere prior we submitted this.

Mr. McPhillips stated yes, but didn't we ask for money in the budget.

Mr. Liblick stated we never got it.

Mr. McPhillips stated I know we didn't get it, but we asked for it, because we figured that was a road we had to go down. So, why would we have taken those steps in the beginning, if we can't do it.

Mr. Richardson stated I'm sorry, I wanted to respond to the manager questions. Peggy.

Mrs. Harrison stated once we submit this document to the Legislature, we no longer exist as the Charter Commission.

Mr. McPhillips stated why? How is any different than the staggered terms? Why did we not go when that was done?

Mrs. Harrison stated that was a partial. They wanted it partial.

Mr. McPhillips stated maybe this is a partial.

Mrs. Harrison stated but then you have to tell them.

Mr. Liblick stated we have to have another meeting after we submit.

Mrs. Harrison stated but we don't, we're not empowered to have another meeting.

Mr. Ferguson stated says who?

Mr. McPhillips stated that's what I'm saying.

Mrs. Harrison stated once you submit something to the Legislature.

Mr. Richardson stated wait a minute. That was not a final recommendation. This is going to be a final recommendation. That means that's the end of it. The question I would have, going back to the managers. Those changes, a lot of those will go out the window if that manager position is changed to a County Executive.

Mr. Liblick stated I think, out of respect for the County Manager, is to say is there anything you want us to move forward on.

Mr. Richardson stated we could do that. If they want us to stay on and look at other parts of the government, we could do that.

Mr. Liblick stated it's not stay on for other parts of the government. It's the Charter they are talking about.

Mr. Ford stated I would just say that, if you want to feel like you've given him an opportunity, one last chance. You could say we are working on a final report. None of your changes are currently in there. Are there any you want us to look at again.

Mr. Ferguson stated I strongly oppose that. I don't want to invite him to say something and then not act on it. That puts us in an obligation to do something. This uniquely stuff is going to be blown away if they take our main exception anywhere. We're arguing both sides of the fence then.

Mr. Ford stated Bill has a good point. This four years before the executive comes in.

Mr. Ferguson stated it's not a good point for me because I don't want to dilute the County Executive. I know they want us out the door. We've been here two years.

Mr. McPhillips stated we elected them, as voters in this county. They could tell you we want you done tomorrow. If I feel I'm benefiting the taxpayers of this county, I'll root for another three years.

Mr. Liblick stated let me ask you a question. We give the final report, we have our last meeting, and then we want to have our presentation. The presentation if the following month. So we're not going to have the opportunity to sit down and meet because they disbanded us, because we handed them a final report.

Mr. Ferguson stated I'm not going to get into those little line changes. Many of them were in the code which Cheryl warned us to stay away from.

Mr. Liblick stated I'm not talking about the code right now. We are called the Charter Review Commission.

Mr. Ford stated it sounds like the same thing that he and Cheryl had been through.

Mr. Ferguson stated so let them do it.

Mr. Liblick stated so we should just out of courtesy to the County Manager who came to our meeting.

Mr. Ferguson stated I absolutely disagree.

Mr. Liblick stated I think you are wrong.

Mr. Ferguson stated we don't go to him unless we agree as a committee to do it. Why invite him to do something if we don't want to do it.

Mr. Liblick stated isn't this a duty of the Charter Commission to review the Charter? If the County Manager comes before you, should we at least have the decency to address that.

Mr. Richardson stated we could do that. If we start addressing other issues we could be here forever. But, I don't disagree that we could send him an email in effect that we are finalizing our presentation to our recommendations. You had brought up some issues during a presentation. Are there any of those issues that you specifically would like us to address.

Mr. Ferguson stated if we look at his things. In all likelihood, they are going to be about accruing power to the County Executive that comes from the Legislature.

Mr. Richardson stated if we start looking again at the functions of the County Manager, and changes the strength of the County Manager. Are we sending a mixed signal to the Public. Are you advocating to change the government or are you advocating to strengthen the county government as we have it today. Now you have to get into a whole other explanation.

Mr. Ferguson stated we will never get the County Executive if we do that.

Mr. McPhillips stated you could step back at that and say our job was to review the charter and obviously there are still things that aren't working in it. Our recommendation was for the County Executive. If that was to fall through, we basically just done nothing and for another ten years it is still dysfunctional.

Mr. Ford stated you don't even have to vote on whether this is your final report or not.

Mr. Richardson stated the only thing I see different is these three documents reworked and somehow a little summary to remind them that we previously submitted for staggered terms.

Mr. Ford stated and the actual language can be in the appendix as well.

Mr. Richardson stated read the 2007 minutes and you can see what their conclusions were.

Mr. McPhillips stated you can't do anything as an independent entity or whatever you want to call it, until the Legislature in essence, makes a final decision. When we submit it, the Board of Supervisors made a decision to do it. We submit these documents, they could go a year, two, three years and they could simply say we are still reviewing it. We have not made a final determination. You couldn't go out and start to advocate for something because the Legislature hasn't made a final decision.

Mr. But, you could though. If they are taking too long you can go get the votes you need to push it. You could either do the votes yourself or you could let the Board do it.

Mr. Richardson stated you could do it individually or anything you want.

Mr. McPhillips stated well I'm a little confused. When we were first here we asked for a budgeted amount of money because we said it was going to cost us a lot to go out and talk to these individual towns to push this idea through. So, if you were defunded, if this was your last, why would we even suggest for money in the budget in the beginning. That's all I'm trying to figure out.

Mr. Richardson stated because initially, first of all, I thought that we could pay mileage. I just totaled the mileage. I'm up to 800 miles just to these meetings. We also anticipated early on that we would have independent council to help us with this. The County offer attorney services and took that out of the budget. One disappointment is were never able to schedule meetings out in the public.

Mr. McPhillips stated if this sits around for two years, I would have to go out personally.

Mr. Richardson stated we could as individuals. We just cannot go out representing ourselves as the Charter Commission advocating for a position.

Mr. Liblick stated we put together a commission of our own, or whatever we want to call it.

Mr. Ferguson stated I don't want to dilute the fundamental one.

Mrs. Harrison stated it might be good insight on whether or not we include it in the final report as to where the county is actually leaning.

Mr. Ferguson stated I don't think that's a discussion to have here.

Mr. Richardson stated we pretty much have a clear path of where we go next month. Do we need to update them to where we are or can you share with them where we are, on our behalf.

Mr. Ford stated I'll talk to Cheryl.

Mr. Richardson stated next months meeting will be held here, March 15th at 6PM. Are you scheduled to chair then? If everything goes well we should be able to vote on as the final.

Mr. Ford stated somebody should reach out to Luis.

Mr. Richardson stated I will, I will make a note of that. I will share the idea that we are going to present this at executive. But we want a special meeting to discuss our findings.

Mr. Ford stated a special meeting or a longer time. Say we think it might be longer than you'd want on a regular meeting.

Mr. Ferguson motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. McPhillips. The Charter Review Commission meeting adjourned At 8:27pm.