The Educational Subcommittee met in a scheduled meeting at the Columbia County Public Library Tuesday, September 12, 2006.

The Chair called the meeting to order. Mr. David Rountree opened with prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America followed. Deputy Clerk Sandy Markham called roll.

In Attendance:

Chairman Wayne Sapp
Vice Chair Jessica Natale
David Rountree
Karl Burkhardt
Dean Moore

Absent: None

Others in Attendance:

Deputy Clerk Sandy Markham
Consultant Kurt Spitzer

I. Travel

This issue of Chairman’s Sapp’s request for travel reimbursement was revisited. Chairman Sapp explained that he was told from the inception of the Charter Review Commission that the entire commission would be entitled to mileage reimbursement. Mr. Sapp explained the mileage reflected on the vouchers is very conservative and that he actually traveled more miles than is reflected in his voucher.

Mr. Sapp read a memorandum from County Manager Dale Williams to the Charter Review Commission dated September 12, 2006. Mr. Williams’ memo was sent to clarify that per Florida Statutes, travel expenses are reimbursable, but are not mandatory. County Manager Williams stated in his memo, “The only issue to be decided here is whether or not the Charter Commission is in agreement to reimburse the expenses.” He further states, “The Charter Commissioner, or their designee, should decide if the expenses are reasonable and fair and are an expense that the Charter Commission feels should be reimbursed.”
expenditures submitted for payment. Mr. Rountree did not recall that and disagreed, stating that if that was so, the authority given would be contrary to the resolution the Charter Review Commissioner approved. He read from the Final Resolution of the Charter Review Commission signed on June 26, 2006:

The Charter Review Committee may reconvene at the call of the chair or a majority of its members at any time prior to its dissolution for the purposes of planning and holding educational sessions concerning the proposed charter amendments, approving and forwarding its final expense for payment, or for the conduct of any other lawful business.

Ms. Jessica Natale said that she feels Mr. Sapp should be reimbursed, but was inclined to agree with Mr. Rountree that according to the resolution the matter should go before the Charter Review Commission. She asked Mr. Spitzer if there would be a final meeting of the Charter Review Commission. He responded that it would be reasonable to have a “wrap up” meeting. He said he could not think of any Charter Review Commission that had disbanded without having a final meeting to tie up all loose ends and pay the final bills before they officially disbanded. Ms. Natale suggested that if it would not create a hardship on Mr. Sapp, the matter be reviewed by the entire committee. Mr. Sapp responded the issue was not whether he needed the money, but the issue was that the request is a legal reimbursement, and that his request for reimbursement has now been submitted on two other occasions. She explained that she believes the issue is simply procedural.

The discussions became repetitive and quarrelsome. There was a call for the vote.

Mr. Wayne Sapp said the issue was insignificant and reported that the Board is already paying bills relating to the Charter without the Charter Review Committee’s knowledge or approval. He said that the County has paid the bills recently submitted by Kurt Spizer, Allen Watts and other bills. He said the he personally questioned why certain bills had been paid without his approval or signature. Mr. Spitzer said that he knew his invoice had been submitted for payment, but could not confirm whether payment had been received. The subcommittee discussed that payment for items relating to the charter should not be paid without approval of the Charter, and if the Board is paying those bills without approval, there was then a question as to why Mr. Sapp’s travel vouchers were ever rejected for payment.
true, and that he (Rountree) was not the only one on the committee talking about him. "Other people were doing the same thing," said Mr. Sapp before leaving.

Mr. Sapp left the meeting at 6:55 p.m. Because of prior commitments, Mr. Burkhardt and Mr. Moore left moments ahead of Mr. Sapp.

II. Advertising

Brochures and advertisements will be used to educate the public regarding the proposed amendments. Mr. Spitzer reviewed with the committee key election dates, educational materials, and approximate related costs.

Brochures will be sent via Direct Mail to 21,000 voters. It will take approximately 7-10 business days for delivery. (Printing $1,500, Mail house $900, and Postage @$0.21 each $4,500)

Mr. Spitzer will forward a copy of this brochure to Mr. Karl Burkhart and will discuss advertising with him.

Display Advertisements:

- Lake City Reporter ½ page ad to run Sunday, November 5 ($600)
- Lake City Advertiser ½ page ad to run Wed., November 1 ($400)

It was agreed that in addition to the foregoing extra brochures would need to be printed so that they could be distributed in public places. Mr. Spitzer will share the final educational materials for printing with the subcommittee prior to printing.

Mr. Spitzer said he spoke briefly with the Lake City Reporter Editorial group and feels that they will be willing to run the actual amendments in detail as a public service. He will report final details. A call has also been made to the Lake City Community College to request their assistance in doing a segment or advertisement on their television channel, and he will also discuss advertisement on the cable channel with the library, and whether Mr. Karl Burkhardt would be interested in assisting with advertisement.

Mr. Spitzer suggested one final Charter Review Commission meeting in order to wrap up outstanding invoices, for introducing final educational materials, and to officially disband. He did not personally see a need for the educational subcommittee to meet again.
Before adjourning Ms. Natale asked Mr. Rountree if he would check into the matter of whether invoices are being paid without approval of the Charter Review Committee.

There being no more business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

P. DeWitt Cason
Clerk of Circuit Courts