The Charter Review Commission met in a regularly scheduled meeting in the auditorium of the Columbia County School Board Administration Office.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Koby Adams at 6:00 p.m. The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America followed. Deputy Clerk Sandy Markham called roll.

Charter Commissioners in Attendance:

- District 1 Representatives: Bettye Lane, Ozell Graham, Audrey Bullard
- District 2 Representatives: Zimmie Petty, David Morse (late)
- District 3 Representatives: Walt Graham, Jack Berry, Koby Adams
- District 4 Representatives: Kim Skinner, Sherree Vann, John Willis
- District 5 Representatives: Nathan Morgan, Ray Walker, Glynnell Presley

Charter Commissioners Absent:

- District 2 Representative: Rocky Ford

Others in Attendance:

- Deputy Clerk Sandy Markham
- Consultant Kurt Spitzer
- Attorney Mark Watts
- Asst. County Manager Lisa Roberts

Minutes of May 24, 2012

MOTION by B. Lane to approve the minutes subject to minutes being changed to reflect Audrey Bullard was in attendance and that Citizen Stew Liker opposed proposed Amendment #6. Second by R. Walker. The motion carried unanimously.

Presentation

Consultant Spitzer re-presented a PowerPoint presentation relating to forms of government, how Columbia County’s Charter Form of government operates, and he briefly reviewed the proposed amendments. This was done as a courtesy for those who missed it previously.

Final Public Hearing

Chairman Adams declared the public hearing. The Charter Commission heard from the public on the proposed amendments prior to action being taken.
Amendment No. 1. Article 2, Section 2.1 would add two at-large commissioners to the current five.

Citizen Stewart Liker spoke in opposition.

Amendment No. 2. Article 2, Section 2.2 would create a Citizen Redistricting Advisory Committee.

Citizen Stewart Lilker voiced opposition. Citizen David Rountree asked questions for clarification.

Amendment No. 3. Article 2, Section 2.8(1) would amend provisions for removal of County Manager by the Board of County Commissioners.

Citizen Stewart Lilker spoke in opposition.

Amendment No. 4. Article 2, Section 2.11 would remove the requirements for supplementary public notice and information provision and providing state law control public notice of hearings and provision of materials for hearings.

Citizen David Rountree and Stewart Liker spoke in opposition.

Amendment No. 5. Article 4, Section 4.2 would remove a department head’s option to appeal termination by County Manager to the County Commission.

Citizen Stewart Lilker spoke in opposition.

Amendment No. 6. Article 5, Section 5.2.1 would abolish the elected office of County Attorney and provide for the appointment of a County Attorney.

Citizen Stewart Lilker spoke in opposition.

The public hearing closed.

Action Taken on Proposed Amendments:

Proposed Amendment No. #1

Proposed Amendment No. #2

MOTION by J. Berry to accept the proposed technical change (from “justification” to “explanation”). Second by John Willis. The motion carried with a 13-1 vote. Voting in opposition: O. Graham.

MOTION by J. Berry to place the amendment on the ballot. Second was recorded, but unidentified. The motion carried with an 12-2 vote. Voting in opposition: O. Graham and G. Presley.

Proposed Amendment No. #3


Proposed Amendment No. #4

Chairman Adams advised that he was withdrawing the amendments that he proposed for further discussion.


Proposed Amendment No. #5


Proposed Amendment No. #6

MOTION by J. Willis to place the amendment on the ballot. Second by N. Morgan. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution

The Charter Commission considered a resolution transmitting the adopted amendments to the Board of County Commissioners. The adopted amendments being: #2, #3, #5, and #6.

MOTION by B. Lane to adopt the resolution. Second by D. Morse. The motion carried unanimously.
Public Education

There is a need to educate the public on the amendments. In 2006 the Charter Review Commission appointed a subcommittee to take up the issue of Public Education. The subcommittee recommended to the full Charter Review Commission a plan which included a publication of a display advertisement in the local newspaper and the printing and circulation of informational, bi-fold brochures.

The Chair appointed S. Vann, K. Skinner, O. Graham, D. Morse, and B. Lane to the Educational Subcommittee. This subcommittee will develop an educational plan to be presented and approved to the full Charter Review Commission in no more than 60 days. The Chairman asked B. Lane to serve as the subcommittee chairperson.

Approval of Invoices until the Charter Review Commission Meets Again

MOTION by J. Berry for invoices needing payment to be submitted to Vice Chairwoman Lane for review and signature, and then the invoices should be forwarded to Chairman Adams for review and signature. Second by N. Morgan. The motion carried unanimously.

Appreciation

Chairman Adams expressed appreciation for the Commissioner’s willingness to volunteer on the Charter Review Commission. The Vice Chair thanked Attorney Watts and Consultant Spitzer for their help, and expressed appreciation to Chairman Adams for his professionalism while chairing the Commission. She too thanked the Commission for their work. O. Graham thanked the citizens who were interested enough to come out and be a part of the reviewing of the Charter.

Closing Remarks of Attorney Watts

He reminded the Commissioners that until the Charter Review Commission formally disbands that they continue to be subject to the Sunshine Law.

Adjournment

The meeting stands adjourned until the call of the Chair. The meeting concluded at 7:30 p.m.

Attest: Koby Adams, Chairman
Charter Review Board

P. DeWitt Cason
Clerk of Circuit Court