

**CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF FREEHOLDERS  
MINUTES OF APRIL 8, 2014**

The Board of Freeholders convened at Lacamas Lodge Conference Center, 227 NE Lake Road, Camas, Washington 98607

**Call to Order**

Nan Henriksen, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Public Comment**

1. Joe Lavesque
2. Bill Ward
3. Molly Coston
4. Greg Kimsey

**Approval of Minutes**

Moved by Jim Mains to approve minutes from March 22, 2014 seconded by Jim Moeller.

**Motion Passed**

**Revisit Charter Elements**

**District versus countywide election of councilmembers in the general election**

Peter Silliman requested at the last meeting that the board reconsider the previous decision to keep the election process of the county council the same as it currently. The Board took a straw vote to reconsider the previous decision and the majority of the board voted for reconsideration.

Moved by Gary Lucas seconded by Paul Dennis to have each board member vote for their first and second choices among the options. Based on the vote, the top two options were:

1. elect and nominate five councilmembers by district OR
2. nominate and elect four councilmembers by district and nominate and elect one councilmember countywide.

By a show of hands the majority chose the second option.

**Article 7 Initiative and referendum (PA opinion issue)**

Chair Henriksen asked the board if they were in agreement on the following language. "Initiatives that require new or additional sources of revenue shall include a recommended revenue source adequate to fund the result of the initiative". By straw vote the board voted unanimously to keep the language.

The Board discussed the appropriateness of having the Prosecuting Attorney's opinion on the petition which will indicate to the petitioner as to whether the proposed initiative is or is not within the scope of local initiative powers. Chair Henriksen asked the board if the

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wording should say “shall” or “may”. By a show of hands the board voted that it should say “may”.

Jim Moeller stated that he has concerns regarding the language that states the Prosecuting Attorney’s office can indicate on a petition that they have “no opinion at this time”. Moved by Jim Moeller to remove the “no opinion at this time” wording on petition. By straw vote the board voted to leave the language as is.

**Financial Administration**

Chair Henriksen suggested to the board that after hearing Greg Kimsey’s concerns regarding having state law quoted in the charter which he believed to be too much information if they were agreeable to having two options brought back next week...one outlining the financial differences between elected officials and one with no reference to state law written into the charter. The board agreed to review those options at the next meeting.

**Human Resources**

The board discussed Human Resource policies and implementation of those policies. In the current proposed charter it indicates that the County Manager shall develop all county human resource policies. Garry Lucas requested that the language “in county departments” be added because currently each elected official has a right to opt out of those policies and create their own.

The board discussed the proposed salary of \$53,000 for each county council position. After discussion and a straw vote it was decided to keep the amount at \$53,000.

Chair Henriksen asked the board to review section 6, paragraph 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence. “No county employee shall hold a partisan elected office at the county state or federal level while employed by the county”. After discussion it was moved by Ann Rivers, seconded by Paul Dennis to strike the 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence, in section 6, paragraph 1. A vote of the board was taken and it was voted to leave the language as is.

The board discussed language in section 7 related to collective bargaining. Chair Henriksen stated that the language in the previous document was stricken due to the contention and micromanaging it could cause. After board discussion and a straw vote it was determined that the language will be stricken.

**Charter Amendments Article 9**

Chair Henriksen stated that the board needed to discuss the following language. “When a ballot contains multiple amendments on the same topic the voters shall be given the choice of accepting or rejecting each amendment. If the voters accept more than one amendment on the same topic the amendment receiving the highest number of affirmative votes shall be approved”. Chair Henriksen stated that it was brought up at the last meeting that it should say either non-compatible or conflicting because there could be

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two amendments on a topic that would not be incompatible but could both be put into practice. After board discussion they indicated a preference or simpler language.

**Close of Business**

**Good of the Order**

Chair Henriksen stated that at the next meeting the Board will discuss deleting the language regarding term limits for boards and commissions and since the board changed the election process for the county council they will have to review the draft charter for any inconsistencies.

The Board will discuss on the transition section based on the change to the 4/1 approach.

**Next Meeting Date/Location**

April 22, 2014, 6:00 p.m., Public Service Center, Hearing Room, Vancouver, Washington.