

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

The Board of Freeholders convened in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, 6th Floor, Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver, Washington.

Call to Order

Nan Henriksen, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Public Comment

1. Lee Jensen
2. Steve Foster
3. Joe Levesque
4. Ralph Schmidt
5. Sunrise O'Mahoney

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Joe Zarelli to approve minutes from February 22, 2014 seconded by Temple Lentz. **Motion Passed**

First Deliberation on Charter Element

Transition

The Board discussed the transition of the county government should the charter be approved. Freeholders discussed the dates additional members of the council would be voted into office. They discussed salaries of council members and increases to salaries over time. Zarelli proposed linking salary increases to increases calculated by the Washington State Citizen's Salary Commission. Other members thought a local salary commission would be closer to local conditions. There seemed to be general agreement that salaries and increases should not be set by sitting council members. Chair Henriksen stated that taking into account the discussion at the meeting she will come back with two or three alternatives for discussion at the March 22, 2014 meeting.

Second Review of Charter Element

Initiative and Referendum

The Board discussed Section 3 "Mini Initiative" and whether it should be kept in the charter. After discussion it was decided to keep this section in the charter.

The Board discussed what the threshold percentage for signature requirements would be of ballots cast in last gubernatorial election. After discussion the board agreed on 10% for both initiative and referendum.

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The Board discussed took a straw vote to leave or delete the following language in Section 2 Initiative #4. Current language proposes this statement be included on petitions. "In the opinion of the Clark County prosecuting Attorney, the subject of this initiative is within the scope of local initiative powers. Yes [] No [] No opinion at this time []." The straw vote indicated that the board is split. This issue will come back at a later date for continued discussion on whether to keep the language with presentation on the petition, to keep the language but not have it on the petition, or to eliminate the language entirely.

The Board discussed the number of valid signatures needed to start the referendum process. After discussion it was agreed upon 100 validated signatures would be needed. The Board also discussed the number of calendar days a petitioner would have from registration to collect signatures. It was agreed upon 100 days.

It was requested of staff to come up with recommended language for Section 2 # 6 & 7 regarding funding suggestions for initiatives.

Review of Charter Element

Separation of Powers

The Board discussed Section 4 # h and agreed to strike the last sentence which stated "Members of similar quasi-judicial boards or commissions created after the effective date of the Charter shall be appointed in the same manner."

The Board took a straw vote and it was unanimous that the language in the section of Separation of Powers is consistent with what has been discussed and the board is comfortable with what is in the draft charter.

Discussion

Chair Henriksen asked the Board to think about ways that they could as a group or individuals reach out to the public and educate them on the charter after the charter is finalized.

Suggestions included asking mayors to schedule time or discussion of the draft charter at council work sessions, and having a meeting immediately after the Freeholder vote to discuss the charter with the public at large.

Next Meeting Date/Location

March 22, 2014, 9:00 a.m., Battle Ground Fire Station #26, 21609 NE 72nd Avenue, Battle Ground.