

**CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF FREEHOLDERS  
MINUTES OF MAY 27, 2014**

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

**Call to Order**

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

**Public Comment**

1. Karen Hangerer
2. Tom Mielke
3. Lee Jensen
4. Kelly Sills

**Approval of Minutes**

Moved by Garry Lucas, seconded by Temple Lentz to approve minutes from May 13, 2014. **Motion Passed**

**Communication to Board of Clark County Commissioners**

Chair Henriksen presented a draft letter written to Commissioner Mielke. Within the letter it thanks him for his leadership in the creation of the board, gives a brief synopsis of the charter elements, and an offer from the Chair to attend a board meeting and answer any questions they may have. The Board of Freeholders reviewed the letter and changed the last sentence. The board approved the letter for signature with the change.

**Charter action**

Vote on charter substance

Chair Henriksen gave each board member an opportunity to speak about the final charter. Tracy Wilson read a prepared statement on behalf of himself, Liz Pike, and Peter Silliman and requested that it be entered into the record. See Attached

A roll call vote was taken. The charter was passed by a vote of 11 to 3. Ann Rivers was absent for the vote.

Vote on transmittal resolution

Chair Henriksen read the resolution that requests the county auditor to place the charter on the General Election ballot on November 4, 2014. Moved by Liz Pike, seconded by Peter Silliman to sign and forward the resolution to the county auditor. **Motion passed**

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Signing transmittal resolution

The resolution was passed around for each board member to sign.

**Summary document and voter pamphlet input**

Chair Henriksen presented the summary document developed by the Clark County Public Information and Outreach office. After board review Chair Henriksen opened the issue up for discussion. After suggestions from the Board the document will be updated and put on the Freeholder website.

Chair Henriksen stated that the board needs to form a committee from the Board of Freeholders that will recommend the members of the pro committee and con committee. The pro/con committees will be charged with writing the pro/con statement for the voter's pamphlet and writing the rebuttal. After discussion it was decided that the five Freeholders who will sit on this committee will be Chair Henriksen, Joe Zarelli, Temple Lentz, Tracy Wilson, and Peter Silliman. Moved by Paul Dennis to appoint the aforementioned five members to the committee to select the pro/con committees, seconded by Randy Mueller. **Motion Passed**

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JUN 26 2014

Dear Commissioners:

Board of Commissioners

As the three dissenting voters of the recently passed Proposed Clark County Home Rule Charter, and the authors of the Minority Report, we are concerned with the absence of the Minority Report on the Clark County website.

We feel the material concerning the Home Rule Charter that is posted may give the impression that all the Freeholders were in agreement, particularly with the sentence " This proposed charter contains checks and balances freeholders think will help maximize good governance". It is precisely the belief that the opposite will occur, that led to our dissent.

Furthermore, the section of "Frequently asked questions", was not written by the Freeholders, yet seems to be speaking on their behalf. We feel this is potentially misleading.

It is with these things in mind, that we would request that a copy of the Minority Report that was presented at the final vote of the Board of Freeholders and read and submitted as part of the official record, be posted on the website, for the benefit of the voters.

Respectively,



Freeholder  
Tracy Wilson



Freeholder  
Liz Pike

Freeholder  
Peter Silliman

**MINORITY REPORT**  
**Clark County Charter – May 27, 2014**

It has been an honor to serve on the Clark County Board of Freeholders. It has been a pleasure to work with a diverse group of qualified individuals who have been able to put aside political differences and work together in a respectful way. We hope this example of cooperation and goodwill will inspire all those who serve in leadership capacities and provide a renewed sense of respectfulness as citizens interact with their elected representatives.

Specifically, we commend Freeholder Chair Hendrickson for her leadership and tireless efforts in order to conduct our charter work in a timely manner. Though we appreciate the manner in which this process was conducted, and agree the final product is a result of consensus and compromise, we cannot support the charter in its final version. Simply, there are too many aspects of the Charter that conflict with why we ran for our freeholder positions; to defend ideals of limited government.

We disagree with elements of the charter, and find the following areas the most troubling:

1. We are concerned the so-called “separation of power” between the legislative branch (Councilmen) and the executive branch headed by the County Executive will not provide an adequate level of accountability to the voters. Our current form of government already possesses a separation of administrative authority through separately elected executive offices such as; Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff, Auditor, Clerk, Treasurer, and Assessor, which comprises a significant portion, if not most, of the County’s administrative functions.

- Separating the remaining county administration under an appointed executive is superfluous and would create a disconnect between the citizens and their government by insulating much of the executive branch from the duly elected representatives.

- The County Executive would have complete authority to appoint all non-elected department managers without confirmation of the elected councilmen. Furthermore, these department heads would in turn staff their agencies without any oversight from our elected officials.

- The Charter also assumes that the Councilmen’s position is part-time, which further diminishes the role of the elected representatives of the citizens, and shifts the balance of power to the appointed County Executive and remaining county bureaucracy.

2. Over time, the Charter will increase the cost of county government and place this financial burden on taxpayers. At a time when we should be

MINORITY REPORT  
Clark County Charter – May 27, 2014

reducing the size of government, part-time county councilmen will, in time, vote to increase support staff with new salaries, and generous taxpayer funded benefits including retirement, health and dental insurance, vacation and sick leave.

For these reasons and others, we regretfully must vote “no” on the 2014 Clark County charter.

Respectfully,



Freeholder  
Tracy Wilson



Freeholder  
Liz Pike



Freeholder  
Peter Silliman