



Board of Carroll County Commissioners

County Office Building
Westminster, MD 21157
www.ccgovernment.carr.org

Open Session

~ Minutes ~

Admin

Thursday, August 4, 2016

1:00 PM

County Office Building Rm 311

I. Call to Order

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Stephen Wantz	Board of Carroll County Commissioners	President	Present	
Richard Weaver	Board of Carroll County Commissioners	Vice-President	Present	
Dennis Frazier	Board of Carroll County Commissioners	Secretary	Present	
Richard Rothschild	Board of Carroll County Commissioners	Commissioner	Present	
Doug Howard	Board of Carroll County Commissioners	Commissioner	Present	

II. Public Comment ~ Item No. III

There were 13 citizens in all that spoke in opposition to Code Home Rule/Charter Government. The comments received were strongly opposed to making the change from County Commissioner Form of Government to Code Home Rule/Charter Government.

III. Briefing ~ Charter/Home Rule Process

At the Board's request, the County Attorney researched the process of going from a Commissioner form of government to a Charter/Code Home Rule form of government. Mr. Tim Burke, County Attorney presented his findings.

Mr. Burke shared with the Board there are three forms of government ~ County Commissioner; County Charter/Home Rule; County Code/Home Rule.

Procedures for adopting Charter Government ~ Option 1 ~ Citizen Petition

- A petition requesting election of a Charter Board is signed by \$10,000 County voters.
- The Board of Elections provides for the election of a Charter Board in the next general or congressional election.
- The Board of County Commissioners nominates at least 5 members for the Charter Board.
If no challenge, sole question at next General or Congressional Election is whether to create a Charter.
- BUT, 2,000 registered voters may challenge the Board's selected members with a petition for their own 5 members.
- 90 days after receipt of Citizen Petition for alternate Charter Board, a special election on the Charter question and Charter Board composition must be held. (Unless a general or congressional election falls in that time frame.)
- Charter question and possible membership of the Charter Board will be voted on. If the Charter Board questions fails, the process ends. If it passes, the Charter Board

question fails, the process ends. If it passes, the Charter Board will have 18 months to craft a Charter.

- At the next general or congressional election, the vote on whether to adopt the charter will be on the ballot.
- If adopted, the charter becomes effective in 30 days.
- Charter will contain transition provisions calling for the election of Council/County Executive at next general or congressional election.

Procedures for adopting Charter Government ~Option 2~ Initiation by Board of County Commissioners

- The Board of County Commissioners may initiate Charter Board, or County Board, or County voters may initiate it by petition, signed by 10,000 voters.
- The Board of County Commissioners create a Charter Board appointing 5 members (County voters may contest the appointments within 60 days with alternative members, followed by a special election on the Charter Board composition and the Charter question).
- Once the Charter Board is seated, it has 18 months to prepare a charter, which is then published twice in 30 days.
- Voters cast ballots at the next Congressional or General Election within 30-90 days after publication of the proposed charter.
- If adopted, charter is effective in 30 days.
- Charter will contain transition provision calling for election of Council/County Executive at next general or congressional election.

Procedures for adopting ~ Code Home Rule

- The County Commissioners, by resolution, propose to become a Code county.
- The County's Board of Elections places the question to the voters at the next General or Congressional election.
- The code question appears on the ballot at the next General or Congressional election.
- If approved by the voters, Code Home Rule government becomes effective in 30 days.

Mr. Burke also provided the Board with the counties that had County Commissioner ONLY form of government with there being 7 counties including Carroll County (pop. 167,534) being one of those counties. There are also 12 counties with ~ CHARTER HOME RULE form of government; and 5 counties with CODE HOME RULE form of government.

IV. Public Comment ~ Item No. V

None

V. Briefing/Discussion ~ County Space Planning: Law Enforcement; States Attorney; Board of Education

On June 2nd, the Board of Commissioners and staff discussed hiring a firm to design a new Law Enforcement Building at the existing Army Reserve Building. The Commissioners voted unanimously to fund the programming requirements and needs assessments for the Sheriff's Office, State's Attorney's Office, and the Board of Education. The goal of this planning exercise is to determine if the existing buildings which include the Winchester Building, the Army Reserve Building and New Windsor Middle School could be modified to fit these purposes. Staff and the architect have met with all agencies involved and is now prepared to discuss the findings with the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Scott Moser gave a quick summary, while stating that this is really high level process that they are going through at this time with the Board. This is not about the specific

details of the buildings of what might be put where, it is what are we going to do in the future to benefit everyone here. In early June the preliminary plans for a law enforcement renovations was presented and at that time the Board of Commissioners agreed to have a programming and needs assessment study completed to come up with a few different scenarios on the best way to move forward. Over the past 2 months the architect has performed and has generated a report and there findings and recommendations. They stated that they spent a fair amount of time with each of the user agencies.

Mr. Hanns reviewed the history, explained the methodology that was used in order to know what each of the agencies needs were and how they arrived at this information and what the purpose and intention and what their objectives were: where are you now, be very self aware of your needs and be able to justify them completely. After the interviews were completed, the architects gave the Board of Commissioners their recommendations for each of the three agencies: Board of Education; State's Attorney's Office and the Sheriff's Office. Some of the things that were taken into consideration were the Sheriff's Office taking over the "Policing Agency" from the Maryland State Police for all of Carroll County, the Board of Education's computer technology needing to be running on a 24/7 time schedule, and the need for the Sheriff's Office, the State's Attorney's Office and the Court System maintaining close proximity (this was requested by all three agencies). The main reason for this being security purposes.

The architect Mr. Hanns came up with several different scenarios and reviewed each with the Board stating what they were and why the scenario would work and at what cost to the Commissioners. In all the scenarios the earliest possible date that anyone could make the first move would be one (1) year and it would take up to three (3) years to complete the project at a budget of \$26M - \$30M.

After the presentation of the Architect's proposals, the comment was made that the County does not have this kind of money to do all of these things. Scott Moser suggested that they will come back in a few weeks, after the Board has time to go over the things that were presented to them. Mr. Moser said they could also take what Commissioner Howard suggested and see if we can force some of these gaps into these spaces. See what is behind that number and see what would be lost if the county does it like that. Put something together quickly and the Board could think about that as well. The county needs to make a decision on where we are going to move from to what we are going to now. Commissioner Howard stated that Mr. Moser could figure out what the Commissioners would have to supplement if we decided to do the above.

VI. Public Comment

Citizen comment(s): no public comments were received.

VII. Adjourn ~ 3:30 PM

1. Motion To: adjourn

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dennis Frazier, Secretary
SECONDER:	Richard Weaver, Vice-President
AYES:	Wantz, Weaver, Frazier, Rothschild, Howard