

**BARROW COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE**  
**BARROW COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING**  
**APRIL 19, 2011**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Members Present:**

Bob Akin, District 4  
Chris Bailey, District 3  
Scott Hang, At Large  
John King, District 5  
David Mann, District 1  
Ray Newman, District 6  
Shirley Segars, District 2

**Media Present:**

Doug Moser  
Susan Norman

**Facilitators Present:**

Jim Dove  
Mott Beck

Jim Dove opened the initial meeting of the Barrow County Charter Review Committee at 7:00 p.m. He provided the following information taken from the resolution passed by the Board of Commissioners.

**Purpose:** To review the charter and suggest potential modifications for consideration by the Board of Commissioners.

**Composition:** Nine members – one each appointed by the Chairman and District Commissioners; and two at large appointed by the Committee at its first meeting.

**Facilitators:** Jim Dove and Mott Beck of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission, and Jim Grubiak of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia.

**Meeting Schedule:** The first meeting will be held no later than April 22<sup>nd</sup>. At this meeting, the Committee will elect a Chair and two additional members by a majority vote. There will be at least one meeting in each of the following: Carl/Auburn, Statham, Winder, Bethlehem, and Braselton. All meetings will be completed on or before June 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Recommendations:** The Committee shall present its recommendations to the Board of Commissioners at its June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Board of Commissioners will also hold a public hearing at that meeting to receive public comment.

After receiving recommendations and input, the Board of Commissioners will consider potential modifications.

**Action:** The Board of Commissioners will act upon intended charter amendments on or before June 28<sup>th</sup> by voting on those amendments that can be accomplished under the County's home rule powers, requesting the local legislative delegation to carry forward amendments requiring action by the General Assembly, and/or pursuing a referendum.

In order to assist with activities of the first meeting, Mr. Dove presented a tentative agenda. It included the following:

1. Hear the charge.
2. Elect Chair.
3. Appoint two additional members.
4. Set tentative meeting dates.
5. Hear from citizens in attendance.

Having heard the charge, members were asked to offer nominations for the position of Chair. Mr. Ray Newman and Ms. Shirley Segars were nominated; however, Ms. Segars declined the nomination. A motion to elect Mr. Newman as Chair was made by Ms. Segars and seconded by Mr. John King. The motion passed unanimously.

At this time, Chairman Newman asked for nominations to fill the two additional seats to be appointed by the Committee. Nominations included:

Ken Young  
Norma Jean Brown  
Pat Graham  
Clay Kelley  
Scott Pentecost

Ms. Graham and Mr. Young were elected by secret ballot. Mr. Kelley received the third highest number of votes. Upon a motion by Mr. King and a second by Mr. Scott Hang, members voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Kelley if Ms. Graham or Mr. Young are unable to serve:

Chairman Newman reviewed potential meeting dates. The following five dates were chosen:

Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>  
Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup>

The meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. at locations to be determined.

The format of the meetings was also discussed. It was determined that introductory remarks at each meeting would be given by the Chairman. It was also agreed that comments by citizens living in the district where the meeting is held will be entertained prior to comments from those living elsewhere in the county. It is important to keep in mind that the Committee wishes to hear comments on the charter and policy matters, rather than personal attacks. It is a role of Committee members to listen and gain clarity and not to debate with those offering comments. Finally, members agreed that public comments will be limited to two minutes, with an additional three to five minutes allowed for discussion. Chairman Newman asked for a motion to accept this format. Such a motion was made by Mr. Hang and seconded by Mr. King. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Newman entertained comments from citizens in attendance. The two citizens requested information regarding the availability of copies of the existing charter, and inquired as to public notification of future meetings. Members advised that public notices will be forwarded to the press, the possibility of signage will be explored, Mayors will be contacted, utilization of newsletters and utility billings will be considered, and advertising meetings on county and city websites is a possibility.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. King and seconded by Mr. Hang. The motion passed unanimously.