

**BARROW COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE**  
**STATHAM CITY HALL**  
**MAY 26, 2011**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Members Present:**

Ray Newman, Chairman  
Bob Akin  
Chris Bailey  
Scott Hang  
John King  
David Mann  
Shirley Segars  
Ken Young

**Others Present:**

Frank Clark  
Mary Lay  
Eileen Myers  
Robert Bridges  
Larry Joe Wilburn  
Betty Lyle  
Beth Barten  
Boyd McLocklin  
Don Holliday  
Hattie Thrasher

**Media Present:**

Doug Moser, **Barrow News**  
Susan Norman, **Barrow Journal**

**Facilitators:**

Jim Dove, NEGRC  
Mott Beck, NEGRC  
Dave Wills, ACCG

Chairman Newman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. He asked Committee members if there were any changes to the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting summary as presented. There being none, the summary was approved by consensus. The Chairman asked Mr. Dove to give attendees an overview of previous meetings. Mr. Dove advised that the primary focus of the Committee has been the Chairman's veto powers and the possibility of having a Manager/Administrator form of government.

Chairman Newman began the meeting by asking for comments from guests in attendance. The following comments were made by attendees and Committee members:

- A County Manager form of government is preferred. This person should be well qualified and possess skills to be a productive member of the County's staff.
- Former Chairman made three vetoes during his tenure. The system is ripe for abuse and intimidation. A Manager form of government would provide continuity – veto should be eliminated.

- Does not care if County has a Manager or not, just need better qualified Department Heads.
- Manager should have competitive salary and severance package.
- There is a lack of continuity among Department Heads. Some employees are incompetent; however, they get promoted.
- Should Chair have vote? Would that help to balance power?
- Worked under systems with and without a Manager - must look at overall picture.
- Continuity is important to economic development.
- Exactly what does a Manager do; what is his job description?
- The County should be run in a “business way”.
- The key to success is teamwork and cooperation from everyone.
- Need a Manager to be there when elected officials change.
- Can the Chairman hand off power to Administrator?
- How many districts will be recommended?
- Have same number of districts as Board of Education. Otherwise, it will create confusion.

At this time, Chairman Newman referenced information from a survey of managers and administrators working in Georgia counties; as well as other pertinent information as provided by Mr. Wills (Attachments A and B). Also, Committee Member Young provided handouts of a proposed change to Section 11 of the charter and a proposed change to Section 13 of the charter (Attachment C & D). He asked that Committee members consider these suggestions for future discussion.

In closing, Chairman Newman asked members to continue to review the charter for future discussion. He reminded everyone that the next meeting of the Barrow County Charter Review Committee will be held on **Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Ace Hardware at 3740 Village Way, Braselton (across from Chateau Elan).**