

BARROW COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

On April 12, 2011, a resolution was passed by the Barrow County Board of Commissioners creating an Advisory Committee for purposes of reviewing the existing Barrow County Charter and suggesting potential modifications to the Charter for consideration by the Board of Commissioners. The resolution provided that the Charter Review Committee be comprised of nine members. The Chairman and the Board of Commissioners were responsible for appointing one person each to represent them. The established Committee, at its first meeting, appointed two additional members. Meetings of the Committee were facilitated by Jim Dove and Mott Beck of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission, and Dave Wills and Jim Grubiak of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia.

At its first meeting on April 19, 2011 the Committee selected a Chairman, appointed two additional members, and established a meeting schedule. That organizational meeting was held at the Administrative Annex. Subsequent meetings, as provided in the resolution, were held in Auburn/Carl, Bethlehem, Statham, Braselton, and Winder. At each meeting, the public was provided an opportunity to comment. The final city meeting was held on June 9, 2011, in advance of the deadline for completing those meetings. As mandated by the resolution, the Charter Review Committee is presenting its recommendations to the Board of Commissioners at its meeting of June 14, 2011. It is understood that the Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing at this meeting to receive comment following presentation of recommendations. Finally, the resolution indicated the Board of Commissioners shall undertake consideration of potential modifications to the Charter and shall act upon the intended amendments on or before June 28, 2011. Such action is to be determined by the Board of Commissioners in its discretion at an applicable time by voting on those amendments that can be lawfully accomplished under the County's home rule powers, requesting the local legislative delegation to carry forward those amendments that require local legislation for action by the General Assembly, and/or pursuing a referendum to the extent allowed by law.

Given the above, the Barrow County Charter Review Committee, by unanimous vote, recommends the following:

- ***Any recommendation of this Committee acted upon by the Barrow County Board of Commissioners should take effect after the next General Election unless the Board of Commissioners chooses otherwise.***
- ***A professional County Manager or Administrator form of government is preferred, with the Manager or Administrator having the ability to hire and fire Department Heads. The costs associated with such form of government should be reviewed and***

the matter presented to voters in a referendum. The Chair should have full voting powers; however, veto powers should be eliminated.

- ***The number of members constituting a quorum should be changed to four, including the Chairman, or Chairman Pro-Tem in the absence of the Chairman.***
- ***Any matter requiring official action by the Board of Commissioners should require four affirmative votes for passage.***
- ***Section 11(b) of the Charter should be amended to read as follows:***

“The board shall elect a Clerk whose duty shall be to keep a full and accurate record of all the actions and doings of the board of said county, which records shall be opened for the inspection of the public at all times during office hours and when the board is not in session. The Clerk shall perform such other duties and keep such records as required by law or may be required of him or her by the board, and for the Clerk’s services, the Clerk shall receive an amount of compensation to be determined by the board, payable in accordance with current policy, and with the further provision that the Clerk shall not be a member of the board and shall be on a full-time basis.”

- ***Section 9 of the Charter (regarding payments) should be reviewed and rewritten to be in harmony with the present form of government.***

Ray Newman, Chairman (District 6)

David Mann (District 1)

Shirley Segars, District 2

Chris Bailey (District 3)

Bob Akin (District 4)

John King (District 5)

Scott Hang (Chair's Appointee)

Pat Graham (At-Large)

Ken Young (At-Large)