

LUZERNE COUNTY HOME RULE TRANSITION COMMITTEE

March 9, 2011

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE

The eleventh meeting of the HRTC convened in the Commissioners Meeting Room at the Luzerne County Courthouse, 200 River Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. It was called to order by Chair, Jim Haggerty at 6:40pm.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Jim Haggerty, Chair
Jim Bobeck, Vice Chair
Ronna Ciaruffoli, Secretary
Rob Bakewell
Tom Cooney
Kick Heffron
CJ Kersey
Steve Urban
Rick Morelli, via telephone
Susan Shoal, Treasurer, via telephone

ABSENT

Maryanne Petrilla

ALSO PRESENT

Jeff Malak, Attorney
Gloria Kijek, Clerk

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None circulated.

CITIZEN COMMENT (agenda items)

Wil Toole, Dupont - Expressed concerns about hiring a consultant.

Mario Fiorucci, Sugar Notch - Spoke on putting on ballot a vote for a countywide sales tax and suggested forming committees to study different facets of government.

Jim Haggerty responded that it would be up to the Council to form such committees and referred to Attorney Malak on tax question.

Jeff Malak stated we must comply with state tax laws.

Kathy Dobash, Hazelton - Spoke on website, conflict of interest, hiring consultant, public and transparency.

Thermon Guamp, Kingston - Spoke on hiring a consultant.

Ed Chesnovitch, Jackson Township - Supports hiring a consultant.

SOLICITOR REPORT

Nothing to report.

TREASURER REPORT

Motion to approve the following expenses: postage stamps at \$8.80. (Motion 1)
Motion Kick Heffron
Second CJ Kersey
Unanimous
Motion carried

Susan Shoal also reported she's looking at competitive pricing quotes for public official liability insurance policy.

SUBCOMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUPS

PERSONNEL SUBCOMMITTEE

Jim Bobeck reported last met 2/28 and spoke on Plan of Action handout (attch 1), showing the subcommittees progress on policies. Also spoke on mission statement. Next meeting will be 3/21 @ 7:30pm EMA bldg.

ETHICS SUBCOMMITTEE

Rob Bakewell reported last met on 2/28 and spoke on the function of Ethics Subcommittee, subcommittee looking at various ethic codes, and beginning drafting ethics code proposal. Also spoke on handout (attch 2), Complaint Process diagram. Next meeting will be 3/21 @ 6:30pm at EMA bldg.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE

Susan Shoal reported last met 2/28 and they were working on a timeline. Subcommittee is also addressing county organizational structure. Next meeting will be 3/21 @ 5:30pm at EMA bldg.

PERSONNEL AND RECRUITING SUBCOMMITTEE

Rick Morelli reported last met 2/2. Subcommittee put together a time line and game plan of developing job descriptions. They will be bringing in folks from the different county departments to see if anything missed. Also working on options of recruiting/hiring County Manager and discussing if a recruiter should be hired. Next meeting will be 3/15 @6:30pm at Courthouse.

LIAISON SUBCOMMITTEE

Kick Heffron reported last met 3/1 they worked consultant issue and referral to the HRTC committee.

AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

CJ Kersey stated a meeting would be scheduled within a month.

ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANT

Motion to open discussion on engaging consultant (Motion 2)
Motion Ronna Ciaruffoli
Second Kick Heffron
Motion carried 7- 3, dissenting votes Tom Cooney, Rick Morelli, Steve Urban.

Some members thought it would be best to discuss when all members of Committee are physically present.

Motion to table agenda item 9a. Discussion/Vote Engagement of Consultant (Motion 3)

Motion Tom Cooney

Sec Steve Urban

Motion failed. 3-7, in favor votes Tom Cooney, Rick Morelli, Steve Urban.

Discussion was open to floor.

Susan Shoal, Kick Heffron, CJ Kersey, Jim Bobeck, Ronna Ciaruffoli spoke in favor of consultant expressing concern about potential operational issues that committee members are unaware of. The consultant with his expertise and experience will know these issues and will bring forward what committee should be focusing on. Steve Urban, Rick Morelli spoke against consultant expressing concerns about cost. Jim Haggerty spoke on day to day issues committee is not familiar with and how a consultant can help make that one decision that would justify the cost. Rick Morelli asked what the consultant would be doing, what would they be turning over to committee? CJ Kersey, Rob Bakewell referred to Ken Mohr's handout and how it gave specific examples of things committee can choose, or not choose, for him to work on. Jim Haggerty and Jim Bobeck commented costs would be controlled by controlling consultant activities.

Motion to engage a consultant (Motion 4)

Motion Ronna Ciaruffoli

Second Kick Heffron

Motion carried 7- 3, dissenting votes Tom Cooney, Rick Morelli, Steve Urban.

CONSULTANT TO BE ENGAGED AND TERMS

Motion to engage Mohr Management Resources as HRTC consultant at the compensation as stated in proposal. (Motion 5)

Motion Jim Bobeck

Second Rob Bakewell

Motion carried 7- 3, dissenting votes Tom Cooney, Rick Morelli, Steve Urban.

Rick Morelli expressed concern about Ken Mohr being at previous meetings. Jim Haggerty said the discussion of consultant was on 3 previous agendas. Kick Heffron stated as Temporary Chair Maryanne Petrilla suggested we try to find people to help with transition process, and he was given Ken Mohr's name. He contacted Ken Mohr and asked if he thought he'd be able to help. This was before there was discussion of actually hiring consultant. CJ Kersey read from Dec. 8 minutes referring to request for proposals for consultant services--well before February.

Rob Bakewell and Jim Bobeck spoke on Ken Mohr's presentation and credentials, stating working with him would be working with an individual vs an organization. Jim Haggerty spoke on why direct contact with Ken Mohr is important during this process.

COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Jim Haggerty announced he was stepping down as Chair but would remain on the HRTC.

Motion to nominate Jim Bobeck as new Chairperson for HRTC (Motion 6)

Motion Susan Shoval
Second Rob Bakewell
Unanimous
Motion carried

Motion to close nominations of Chair (Motion 7)
Motion CJ Kersey
Second Kick Heffron
Unanimous
Motion carried

Motion to nominate Rob Bakewell as Vice Chairperson (Motion 8)
Motion Jim Bobeck
Second Kick Heffron
Unanimous
Motion carried

Motion to close nominations of Vice Chair (Motion 9)
Motion CJ Kersey
Second Ronna Ciaruffoli
Unanimous
Motion carried

SEATING NEW OFFICERS

Jim Haggerty stepped down as Chair and Jim Bobeck was seated as new Chair

MEETING SCHEDULE

Jim Bobeck announced that the meeting schedule will stay the same the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

CITIZEN COMMENT

Wil Toole, Dupont - suggested putting subcommittees on website.

Ronna Ciaruffoli responded it is on the Home Rule Transition Committee webpage on the Luzerne County website.

Jack Schumacher, Kingston - Jim Haggerty did good job as Chair.

Ed Chesnovitch, Jackson Township - Commented needed improvements on HRTC webpage.

Kathy Dobash, Hazelton - Right to Know requests submitted, concern on hiring consultant, status of submitting receipts to Walter Griffith.

Jeff Malak responded that Treasurer's spreadsheet documents all expenses, and approval is noted in meeting minutes.

Kathy Dobash, Jackson Township - Asked if liaison was a subcommittee or working group
Jim Bobeck responded it was subcommittee, as discussed in previous meeting and noted on webpage.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

CJ Kersey thanked Jim Haggerty for Chairing.

Kick Heffron thanked Jim Haggerty for Chairing. He also suggested folks that have put their name in for County Council refer to section 204 of Charter which stipulates restrictions on other elected offices or positions Council members may hold.

Rob Bakewell thanked Jim Haggerty for Chairing and reminded group meetings are being conducted by Roberts Rules; when an issue is voted on, issue must be reintroduced only thru a motion.

Ronna Ciaruffoli thanked Jim Haggerty for Chairing and welcomed Ken Mohr as consultant.

Jim Haggerty commented that Home Rule took major steps today and commended the 49 citizens who filed to run for County Council. It's good to see new faces getting involved in government.

Rick Morelli thanked Jim Haggerty and wished Jim Bobeck good luck.

Jim Bobeck announced proposed agendas would be available Friday before the next meeting. He noted he would need comments or additions by Monday so it could be posted Tuesday on the HRTC website.

Kick Heffron suggested group select a point person to coordinate consultant activities.

Jim Haggerty suggested this be an agenda item for next meeting.

Ken Mohr spoke on getting to know each member and stated he would attend a meeting of each subcommittee.

Jim Bobeck thanked Jim Haggerty for his contributions as Chair of the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion CJ Kersey

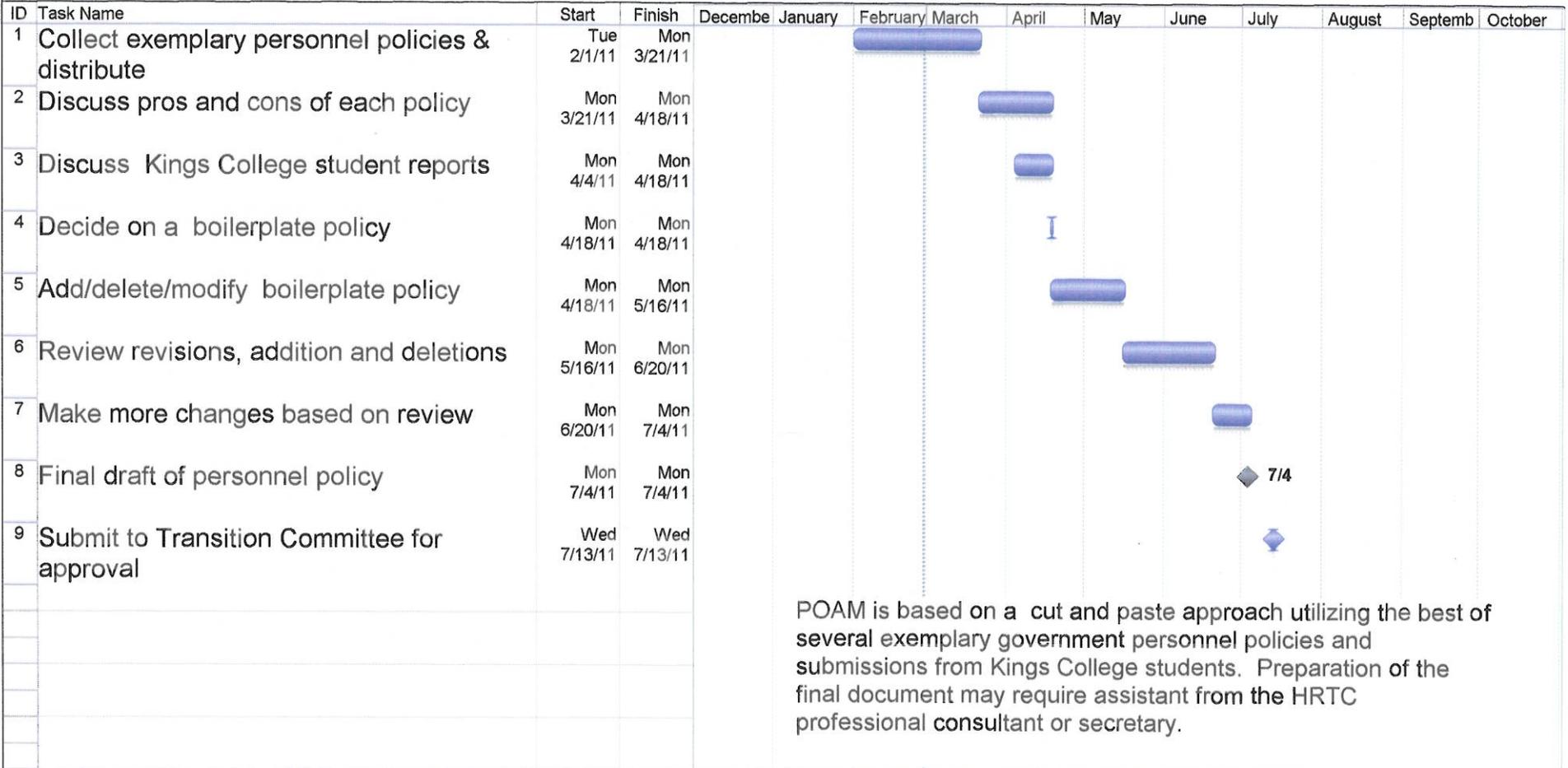
Second Steve Urban

Unanimous

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chairman Jim Bobeck

Personnel Subcommittee Plan of Action and Milestones



Project: PERSONNEL POAM Date: Mon 2/28/11	Task		Rolled Up Task		External Tasks	
	Progress		Rolled Up Milestone		Project Summary	
	Milestone		Rolled Up Progress		Group By Summary	
	Summary		Split		Deadline	

Mon 2/28/11