

City of Lewistown Study Commission
October 9, 2015
Lewistown Civic Center

Attendees included Dick Krillenberger, Alexandra Dunnington, Butch Sturtz, Dick Ellestad, Daryl McKenzie. Melody Scott performed the duties of recording secretary.

Call to Order: Krillenberger called the meeting to order at 11:02 AM.

Roll Call of Members Present

Krillenberger gave a statement explaining the purpose of the study commission, how the public comment process works, what will be allowed in the minutes and gave rebuttal to Jack Biehl's letter to the editor.

Disposition of Previous Meeting Minutes: Ellestad moved to approve the September 28, 2015 minutes. Dunnington seconded.

Budget-Paid Expenses and Current Balance: Scott reported that no current financial numbers were available, but as far as she knew, no new expenses had been incurred.

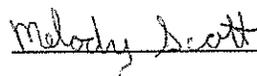
Review of the Polson city charter: Item moved to the October 26th meeting as no copies of the Polson charter were available for review at this meeting.

Open Public Participation: Walter Vanhin made comment about the city government, saying the public should be allowed to vote on what form they want. He also voiced his protest about future annexed citizens not having a vote on the process. If they are going to be taxed, they should be allowed to vote. Dave Byerly shared that his understanding was the the county is trying to make it possible for the annexed residents to be able vote in the primary election. Jack Biehl expressed his frustration on Michael Chapman's comments being in the September 11th minutes, but that his own personal comments did not appear in the minutes. Biehl requested to be placed on the October 26th agenda. Biehl asked the study commissioners to take side with the Sereday street issue. The study commissioners declined to take sides. Suzanne Westhoff asked if the study commission has control over property. The study commission members replied no. Westhoff asked if the study commission has anything to do with the present city annexation proposal. The study commission members replied no. She asked if the study commission is just here to gather information on the two forms of government and possibly place a proposal on the primary election ballot. The study commission members replied yes. Frank Westhoff asked if the study commission is comparing charters in order to make changes. Krillenberger said no. Dunnington said yes, the study commission will compare charters to go through the process to change the charter. Walter asked if the study commission would hold a mock election before a potential item would go to the ballot. The answer from Krillenberger was no. Krillenberger gave discussion on the survey results and how important the public opinion is to the process. Frank Westhoff asked if the election would tell what the public opinion is. Krillenberger made a suggestion that the study commission to rent a post office mailbox where anonymous and signed mail could be sent by the public to express their thoughts and opinions on the charter and the form of government. Ellestad made the motion. Sturtz seconded. Ellestad said that Krillenberger had a good idea. Krillenberger presented the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

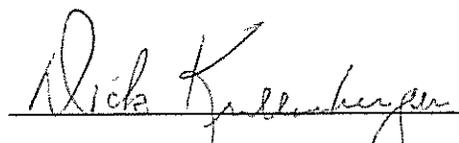
Krillenberger talked to the members about petitioning the city commissioners for a different ex phicio since there is concern that it may be to difficult for the current one to continue to make the meetings. Dave Byerly spoke saying he was not looking to start anything. He pointed out the study commission has two options – propose nothing for change or to propose changes. He admires how the study commission is reseaching and trying to encourage attendance. Byerly pointed out that lack of attendance may be a sign of how people feel.

Committee Member Comments: No committee member comments were given.

Adjournment: Meeting dismissed by Krillenberger at 11:30 am. Sturtz seconded.



Melody A. Scott, Recording Secretary



Dick Krillenberger, Chairman