

City of Lewistown Study Commission
November 13, 2015
Lewistown Civic Center

Attendees included Dick Krillenberger, Alexzandra Dunnington, Dick Ellestad, Darryl McKenzie, Gayle Doney. Melody Scott performed the duties of recording secretary.

Call to Order: Krillenberger called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

Roll Call of Members Present

Disposition of Previous Meeting Minutes: Ellestad moved to approve the October 26, 2015 minutes. Dunnington seconded.

Budget-Paid Expenses and Current Balance: Scott reported that \$1,094.03 has been spent and \$6,937.97 is still available.

Krillenberger announced that the study commission has rented a PO box (#659) to allow for written public comment.

Jack Behl – By Request: Krillenberger asked Behl if he understand what the study commission is about. Behl responded. Behl shared his thoughts about the study commission's behavior, and city operations. He explained that others share his opinion and that the newspaper needs to print all, not parts of the truth. Krillenberger responded saying that the study commission can not take care of business downtown , sereaday street or the building code. The study commission is here to find out what form of city government Lewistown should have.

Discussion on Course of Action Regarding Lewistown Charter: Krillenberger would like to wait until January to start going over the Lewistown charter. The next meeting will be November 30. Krillenberger recommended that the December meetings be canceled due to the busyness of the holidays.

Open Public Participation: Mike Chapman asked to be on the email list for the agenda and minutes. He will look up how many voted for reviewing the government. He believes it was a slim margin, which shows a lack of interest in the city government. Chapman encouraged the study commission to be careful in recommending a change in the government form. The manager/commissioner form is most highly recommended form in studies of city government. Mayoral form is prone to corruption.

Walter Vannoy said there was no city election and that this is the most corrupt government he has ever seen. The manager lies and is a detriment to the city. Vannoy expressed opinion that no city office worker should live outside of city limits.

Tom St. John said to anyone looking straightforwardly will see that there is problems with the city. How many resolutions have the commissioners authored?

Dave Byerly said that the city commissioners or Kevin Myhre by request of the commissioners can present resolutions to the city attorney to write. Byerly said he feels comfortable having issues brought up at meetings. Discussion followed between Doney, Byerly and St. John on the city commission's actions .

St. John said, reiterating the expert, good governments have split votes instead of unanimous votes.

Doney said she appreciated St. John's comment as there are split votes with the city commission.

Byerly expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the study commission to raise attendance. He feels that if it were not for the annexation, no one would come to the study commission meetings. Byerly had two questions to ask about the post office box. 1. Why do the study commission need anonymous comment? 2. If correspondence is anonymous, how will the study commission know if the writers were within city limits? Byerly asked how the study commission can value the opinion if they do not know where the writer resides.

Suzanne Westhoff mentioned that past surveys taken by the study commission had anonymous submissions, most of which were dropped off at the city office. She also spoke of harassment made by city officials.

Byerly said he would be interested in the specifics of the accusations Westhoff is making.

St. John mentioned the how he and Frank Westhoff have canvassed the public. He also mentioned that businesses on main street are afraid to say anything and encouraged the commissioners to go talk to them.

Byerly said if it were not for the annexation, there would be few public attending the study commission meetings.

St. John mentioned that Lewistown should be booming but that is not the case.

Byerly commented that statistically Lewistown is doing very well with areas of agriculture, population around Lewistown and businesses outside of town. He also commented that we do not know who talked to whom and what was said.

Krillenberger explained that getting a PO box is an idea of how to encourage comments and opinions. Hopefully the public will choose to sign their letters. He would like to see city attendance increase at meetings.

Byerly made the observation that the public who are okay with the status quota usually do not attend meetings. It is usually those who are upset that attend the meetings.

Doney handed out a letter she had written, which she then read aloud. She expressed her concerns about allowing anonymous correspondence through the PO box and about missing study commission documentation when reviewing the records at the city office.

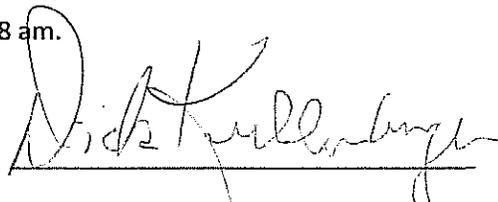
Discussion resumed between Vannoy and Byerly.

Krillenberger encouraged the study commission members and the public to read the article in the Dillon newspaper about ballots from their study commission process. He said it was an interesting read, regardless or whether it had any bearing on our process.

Committee Member Comments: Ellestad made a motion to cancel the study commission meetings scheduled for December. McKenzie seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Adjournment: Meeting dismissed by Krillenberger at 11:48 am.

Melody A. Scott, Recording Secretary



Dick Krillenberger, Chairman

