City of Lewistown Study Commission
March 20, 2015
Lewistown Civic Center

Attendees included Dick Krillenberger, Melody Scott, Dick Ellestad, Gayle Doney, John Sturtz, Alexandra Dunnington. 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

Disposition of Previous Meeting Minutes: Ellestad moved to approve the March 9, 2015 minutes as presented. Dunnington seconded the motion.

Budget-Paid Expenses And Current Balance: Amount spent to date is $3,258.00.

Review of Survey: The study commission discussed how many times to run the survey. The agreement was to run the survey once to see how well it will be received by the public. Drop off locations will be the library, the city office and Krillenberger's house. The survey will run March 28, 2015 in the Lewistown News Argus and the deadline for return will be April 10, 2015. The decision on whether to run the survey a second time will be made after the study commission sees what kind of response there is.

Outline of Study Commission's Timeline: The study commission discussed what possible dates the meetings could be.

Interview of City Commissioners: Frank Gremaux-There are many different forms of government. The purpose of the study commission is to review the current form of city government to see if it is working. The mistakes from the past form of mayor government are just getting straightened out. Why would the city want to go back to that? Progress does not go backwards and that is what the city would be doing by to the mayor form. That form is not efficient. The mayors of the past had a clerk or secretary but no manager. Each department did their own thing or council members would influence the departments. The current form is to have a city manager who brings recommendations to and works under the direction of the city council. Gremaux says he feels that the manager form of government works and that there is no need to fix something that is not broken. Doney asked Gremaux if he felt things are more complex now than they were thirty years ago. Gremaux agreed, particularly in the area of grants. Doney mentioned the strict deadlines and laws towards bonds are complex and complicated. Gremaux pointed out that the city needs government that understands the bonds as losing the ability to do bonds would hamper the city. Many citizens do not understand how complex many things are that the government deals with. The sewage plant would not have been completed if only paid by the taxpayers. Doney gave only objective facts pointing out that many things are different than they were thirty years ago from technology to having vision conferences. The government must have someone who can keep up with the cutting edge.

Open Public Participation: Gary Marks shared that it was interesting to hear what and how the study commission is operating. He said that it was good to hear the perspective of those who have worked under both the manager and the mayor form of government.

Committee Member Comments: Doney asked the study commission how they planned to handle unsigned surveys. Sturtz said that they would possible be separated into signed and unsigned piles so that the opinions could be weighed separately. Dunnington suggested interviewing in the future the study commission members who changed the government form.

Adjournment: Meeting dismissed by Krillenberger at 11:37 AM.

Melody A. Scott

Melody A. Scott, Recording Secretary

Dick Krillenberger

Dick Krillenberger, Chairman