

City of Lewistown Study Commission

April 27, 2015

Lewistown City Complex

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

**Call to Order:** Krillenberger called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Roll Call of Members Present**

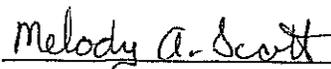
**Disposition of Previous Meeting Minutes:** The minutes stood as read.

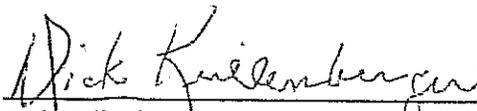
**Budget-Paid Expenses and Current Balance:** Amount spent to date is \$3,490.10 and the remaining balance is \$2,322.90.

**Interview of City Commissioner Rick Poss:** Krillenberger asked what Poss thinks of the government form. Poss said he thinks the current government form works really well but knows there is a difference of opinion on that. Poss also likes the amount of commissioners that is established and that they are not able to meet outside of the public meetings. He mentioned that it is good to have a manager to oversee the day to day operations of the city. If anyone else walked in and took over, they would probably muddle things up. The city manager works for the city commissioners who work for the constituents. Poss said that is not easy to be a city commissioner and have to make decisions contrary to the public opinion. The city commissioners do listen to the public and if the public does not like the choices the commissioners make, then they should be elected out. Krillenberger mentioned the idea of the mayoral form tends to be run down due to the system that was in place in the past. The mayoral system could be reestablished and done differently this time around. Micki Johnson asked if there is a difference between the mayoral and manager form of government. Ellestad said that it depends on if it is set up as a part time or full time position. Poss shared his opinion that if Lewistown were to go back to a mayoral form, especially as a part time position, that a city manager should continue to be employed by the city due to the amount of work connected to the position. This however would be a huge expense. Poss pointed out that city government has more effect on people's lives than the federal government due to the decisions they make and the impact those decisions have. He encouraged that if the public does not like how things are run, to elect new city commissioners. Krillenberger asked if the commissioners have had meetings to review the ordinances. Doney said that no matter the form of government, you have to go forward and review the ordinances. She added that the things change so rapidly that it is a difficult task to keep the ordinances up to date.

**Open Public Participation and Committee Member Comments:** Micki Johnson presented a letter of her thoughts and opinions to the study commission members. She expressed concern about the building codes and the lack of businesses on Main Street. She asked what could be done within the parameters of the law to encourage new businesses. Poss said that this is an ongoing issue and not a new one. Johnson asked about the idea of consolidating services between county and city. Doney and Poss listed off several consolidated departments but said that there is always opportunity for more. Myhre was influential in helping make the 911 consolidation possible. Poss said it would not hurt for the city commissioners to review the building codes and become more educated on them. Charlie Denison recommended interviewing the former building inspector. Krillenberger wondered if some of the building code issues are due to overzealous government employees. Poss mentioned that the flow of government is Myhre who oversees the department heads who oversee their employees. If the city commissioners do not like how Myhre handles things, they can fire him. That has been done before. Krillenberger presented a bill to the study commission for the copies he has made for the study commission. He also mentioned that he also has a copy of the 1976 county charter for the study commission members to look over. The study commission needs to look over the paperwork from the past study commissions. Krillenberger will use the radio and newspaper to help educate the public on the charter in preparation for the study commission's review of the charter. Krillenberger requested that a study commission member contact Miles City to find out why they returned their form of government to the mayoral form. Ellestad agreed to do so.

**Adjournment:** Meeting dismissed by Krillenberger at 7:57 PM.

  
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Melody A. Scott, Recording Secretary

  
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Dick Krillenberger