

***AD-HOC Weld County Home Rule Charter  
Amendment Study Committee  
Meeting Minutes – April 25, 2018***

**I. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL:**

Jackie Johnson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., in the Weld County Administration Events Room. The following Home Rule Charter Committee (HRCC) members were present: Al Dominguez, Sam Gluck (arrived at 6:38 p.m.), Dave Kisker, Mark Lawley, Justus Pettit, Garrett Varra, and James Welch; Ray Patch was excused. Also present were Bruce Barker - County Attorney, and Karla Ford - Board of County Commissioners' Office Manager.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 18, 2018:** Garrett Varra moved to approve the Minutes of April 18, 2018. The motion was seconded by Al Dominguez, and it carried unanimously.

**III. INTRODUCTION AND PRESENTATION:**

- A. GUIDELINES AND SUMMARY INFORMATION: The following informational items were made available: a two-page handout explaining the intent, protocol and expectations for the Home Rule Charter Study Committee (HRCC) meetings, the difference between Structural Home Rule government, versus Functional Municipal Home Rule government, and the difference between the County Charter, versus the Weld County Code.
- B. COUNTY ASSESSOR – CHRIS WOODRUFF: Mr. Woodruff came to inform the committee that he believes the Assessor position should continue to be elected. He stated that he has never had pressure from the Board of Commissioners and that his office follows a high level of professional standards, ethics, and law. The County has a good system in his office that produces good future candidates for the elected position. Many employees have been working their way up in the office over the years to learn new positions and tasks. In response to ~~some~~ questions from the HRCC, Mr. Woodruff stated that even though his staff reports to him, they are Weld County employees. He also suggested taking out some of the language in the Charter surrounding the Chief Deputy, as it is outdated and the position has grown. He replied that he would be willing to give the HRCC members his suggested changes and will submit that to Mr. Barker.
- C. ASSISTANT COUNTY ASSESSOR – BRENDA DONNES: She introduced herself to the committee and informed them she is running to fill the Assessor seat. She said the election process has been a growing process and she takes the position very seriously and feels it makes one more accountable being elected versus appointed.

D. COUNTY TREASURER – JOHN LEFEBVRE: Mr. Lefebvre explained the role of Treasurer and noted that whether the position is elected or appointed, the Commissioners always have the power over the budget. He stated his office is audited. The statutory duties are to collect, disburse and track the monies. The Treasurer’s office handles all items that is in their statutory realm and what the Commissioners request of them. The Weld County Treasurer currently has an additional role, which is to serve as the chair of the Retirement Board. He feels the position should continue to be appointed as there needs to be certain expertise. It was originally changed from elected to being appointed due to the need of a degree, experience and expertise in investing. In response to the HRCC, Mr. Lefebvre believes there should be some investment experience in addition to a Master’s degree and 10 years of experience. He also stated these suggestions would narrow the field, but believes these items would help with the success of the Treasurer’s critical job duties. The Treasurer’s Office currently has an Assistant Treasurer. Mr. Lefebvre also stated he would submit his suggested changes of the Charter surrounding the Treasurer’s Office to Mr. Barker.

E. WELD COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER – CARLY KOPPES: Ms. Koppes stated that she oversees the motor vehicle, recording and elections departments. She has one Deputy Clerk in her office that has been trained to do all things if she is out of the office. She believes that her position should be elected, but the person does need experience about elections and how they are run. She discussed some studies that have analyzed the position of being elected or appointed, and some of the studies found that when elected the person feels more directly responsible to their constituents. She feels she is more responsible to not only her electors, but also those using all three of her departments. She stated one of her primary goals was to be public service driven and to help create an office culture of helping people through the process in all three departments. When asked about running for office, she said it is a good learning process because when she is out campaigning, she is learning about what the constituents want and then can go back and research it and see if things can be changed. In response to Mr. Dominguez, Ms. Koppes stated she is very confident in what the current Charter states about her position and office. She suggested the position continue to be elected. She did remind the HRCC members that they need to be diligent as there is only so much room on the ballot and some items may need to be carried over to the next election.

**IV. PUBLIC INPUT:**

A. Don Mueller, Greeley resident and former Weld County Council member, commended Don Warden on keeping the County debt free. Mr. Mueller stated that after serving two terms on the Council, he believes this non-partisan board has become very political and that is not what was intended when the Charter was written. He agreed that the Treasurer should continue to be appointed. He commended the current Assessor and Treasurer on a good job their offices have done. He stated his opinion that the Assessor should be appointed, rather than elected due to the knowledge and expertise that is needed in that office. Mr. Dominguez asked how the council could be non-political and Mr. Mueller stated it can’t be done and it should be removed from the Charter in the near future. He

did understand it could not be on the ballot at the current time, as it was recently on the 2017 ballot.

- B. Bob Grand, Keenesburg resident and local newspaper owner/editor, suggested that there needs to be something to help with the balance between Commissioners and Weld County Council. He believes there should be a mechanism in the Charter that has a process of disclosure and transparency that employees and elected officials take part of, so they can recuse themselves if there is a conflict of interest. He feels there needs to be a change in attitude of these two groups of service to Weld County and if they can't do their job, there is a way to remove them. In response to Justus Pettit asking about how to get people out of office, Mr. Barker stated that all elected officials are hired by the people. The Colorado Revised Statutes state that the people can recall or not vote for the person at the next election. Mr. Grand recommended the County put a process/mechanism in the Charter to force people to come to the table to discuss or mediate the issue. If officials are out of line, then (Weld County) has a way to deal with it. Mr. Dominguez stated that the founding fathers fought the same issues back then and gave people the opportunity to go to the voting box and vote to make a change. Election is the way to do it.
- C. Sherrie Peif, Greeley resident, had a suggestion of a rotating performance audits on different areas of Weld County Government. The Weld County Council would be in charge of those audits with an outside auditing firm. If the audit action items are not completed, the Council would be allowed to enforce those things to be completed. This would create a responsibility that the public would be able to see if the respective department is acting on the audits.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

\*Minutes submitted by Karla Ford, Board of County Commissioners' Office Manager

