

# **SNOHOMISH COUNTY Charter Review Commission**

## **Minutes**

**Wednesday, February 8, 2006, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Public Meeting Room No. 1**  
**First Floor, County Administration Building East**  
**Everett, Washington**

**Commission Members Present:** Kim Halvorson, Gail Rauch, Ryan Larsen, David Simpson, Diane Symms, Christine Malone, Mike Cooper, Eric Earling, Mark Bond, Barbara Cothorn Hawksford, Jim Kenny, Wendy Valentine, and Rick Ortiz

**Commission Members Not Present:** Renee Radcliff Sinclair, Kristin Kelly

**Others in attendance:** Paul Blowers, Stephen Reinig, Jeff Switzer, John Chelminiak, Ed Moats, Geri Modrell, Michael Swanson, Dylan Malone, Barbara Dykes, John C. Campbell and Kathryn Bratcher

### **Call to Order – Recess into Executive Session**

Chair Cooper called the meeting to order at approximately 6:38 p.m. and recessed the Commission into Executive Session on personnel matters for approximately one hour. At approximately 7:38 p.m. the time allotted for Executive Session was extended by fifteen minutes.

### **Reconvene**

Chair Cooper reconvened the Charter Review Commission meeting at 7:54 p.m.

### **Approval of Agenda**

On motion of Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Symms, the agenda for this meeting was approved unanimously by the thirteen commissioners present, with the removal of the discussion item listed as "Review of Priorities from 1/25". Chair Cooper announced that Commissioners Sinclair and Kelly notified him that they would be unavailable for this meeting and, accordingly, their absence is excused.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Kenny noted an omission on Page 4 of the minutes between issues raised by Commissioner Bond and Commissioner Kelly where it should read "**Commissioner Kenny** Size of the County Council". Commissioner Hawksford made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 25, 2006 meeting with the correction as noted. Commissioner Kenny seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously by the thirteen commissioners present.

### **Action on Administrative Staff Position**

Chair Cooper opened the meeting for deliberation and/or motions relating to the hiring of an Administrative Staff person. He stated that four well-qualified applicants applied for the position and that two of them have been interviewed and are present this evening, namely Stephen Reinig and Michael Swanson.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Hawksford made a motion that the Commission proceed by nominating and casting a ballot for a single candidate. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Simpson. In discussion, it was clarified that this motion will require eight affirmative votes to pass and that if it fails, ballots will be cast for both candidates. The question was called for and the motion failed by a show of hands.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Symms made a motion to vote by ballot. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Malone and it carried by a vote of twelve to one with Commissioner Larsen voting against.

Commissioner Halvorson recused herself from participation in this action because of a personal relationship with one of the candidates for hire.

**ACTION:** Noting that either candidate will require eight votes to be hired, Chair Cooper asked the Clerk to conduct a roll call vote which resulted in seven members voting to hire Stephen Reinig and five members voting to hire Michael Swanson. A second roll call vote was called for immediately and Stephen Reinig was hired as the Commission's Administrative Staff person with nine affirmative votes.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Halvorson made a motion to set the salary range for the administrative staff position at \$4,500 to \$5,000 per month. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Malone and, following a brief discussion, was approved unanimously.

### **Update on Legal Advisor**

Chair Cooper recognized Vice-Chair Earling who updated the membership on the RFQ process for legal counsel for the Commission. He advised that the posting closes on February 10<sup>th</sup> and his sub-committee will be meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup> to review the applicants. Vice-Chair Earling stated that he expects to come back to the next meeting on February 22, 2006 with a recommendation.

### **Adopt Meeting Schedule**

Discussion ensued regarding upcoming meetings and invitations for elected officials to address the Commission. Chair Cooper advised that the County Executive and County Auditor have already confirmed for the meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup>. He suggested that other elected officials can be rescheduled as needed as those meetings have not yet been confirmed. Commissioner Rauch suggested that the Assessor/Treasurer and Sheriff/Clerk be lumped together as they share similar functions. Chair Cooper clarified that these will be special meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> weeks in the month and will be held out in the community. He suggested starting the meetings at 6:00 and have discussions with those elected official(s) present until 7:15.

Commissioner Bond suggested that the elected officials be encouraged to give the Commission an informational packet a week before the meeting so that Commissioners would have time to go over that and prepare questions. Commissioner Valentine expressed concerns with a 6:00 p.m. start time, stating that she feels it will be difficult for some members of the public to get off work and get there that early.

### **Discussion and action on Bylaws**

John Chelminiak distributed copies of a document he drafted entitled "Rules of Procedure, 2006 Snohomish County Charter Review Commission" and conducted a section by section review of the rules as drafted.

**ACTION:** Commissioner Simpson made a motion to extend the meeting until 8:45 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bond and unanimously approved by the thirteen members present.

Discussion continued regarding the draft Rules of Procedure. Commissioner Kenny suggested the Commission review this document over the next couple weeks and continue discussion/deliberations on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Chair Cooper concurred with that suggestion.

### **Public Comment**

Chair Cooper opened the meeting for public testimony. Comments were received from Paul Blowers who introduced himself as a resident of the Lakewood area. Mr. Blowers' comments supported partisan elections over non-partisan ballots. With regard to appointed versus elected positions, Mr. Blowers' stated that in his opinion the Sheriff, Assessor and Auditor should all be elected positions. He also suggested that the size of the County Council remain the same, stating that he feels enlarging the Council would be costly and is not necessary. Mr. Blowers suggested that the Superior Court Clerk position be appointed rather than elected.

Next to testify was John C. Campbell of Marysville. Mr. Campbell stated that he is concerned about oversight and would like to see a watchdog committee made up of a group of citizens to oversee the Sheriff's Department. Mr. Campbell stated that in a recent radio interview, the former Chief of Police for the city of Seattle recommended that every city and county have such a thing. In conclusion, Mr. Campbell offered to provide more details relating to his proposal at future Commission meetings.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn J. Bratcher