

**Government Study Commission  
December 17, 2013  
Carlisle Borough Hall  
Meeting Minutes**

Committee members in attendance: Dave Sheridan, William Berwick, Bert Lennon, Philip Shevlin, Blake Wilson, John Sacrison and Robert Winston.

Not in attendance at the meeting: Ken Womack and Stephen Hughes.

1. Call to Order

Dave Sheridan called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

2. Approve minutes

The November 19th, 2013 minutes were approved, less the (old) committee structure addendum.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Old Business

None

5. New Business

- Bert Lennon reported on Tax Collection and Tax rates. An HR Charter CAN allow a municipality to set tax rates, ref: 53 PA CWS 21-71 Subchapter E §2962, ¶ B (Powers), H (Levy method) and I (Rates).
- Tax Collector office may be abolished, ref: PA SB 985.
- Borough (“Municipality,” if other than “borough”) Manager can set the method if permitted by charter.
- Same privileges and restrictions as under Borough Code.
- NOTE: The R.E. Tax at \$4.6M represents 44% of our total borough budget.
- NOTE 2: The procedure for adopting changes in Tax Collector position and selection must be written into any transition plans.
- Several suggestions were made to the interim Tax Collection report, and the report was retained by the committee in order to be updated, prior to being resubmitted to the entire commission for approval.

NOTE 3: Commissioners agreed that all Committee reports shall, at present, be termed “interim” or “preliminary” pending review and approval for public release by the Commission as a whole. Such distributions should still be clearly labeled as “interim” or “preliminary” in order to avoid misinterpretation, on the part of the general public, that the report represents the final Home Rule decision on the matters under discussion in the report.

The concept of “use by reference” and similar forms of inclusion (in a proposed HR Charter) need to receive a legal opinion as to whether or not they are valid and to how they may be used in a

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Charter. Such use, if allowed, would simplify the writing of a charter by reducing the amount of explicit writing required to develop a legal Charter document.

The next meeting dates and Committee interim reports due are:

07-JAN-2014	Citizen Participation
21-JAN-2014	Government Structure
04-FEB-2014	Elections
18-FEB-2014	Miscellaneous - Any new issues not directly related to other committees

Preliminary reports and information may be submitted to the Charter development and process Committee for preliminary development of a final charter form/format.

6. Public Comment

None

7. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Sacrison,  
For the Commission