

**CHARTER REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 4, 2011**

CHARTER SUBCOMMITTEE: Larry Strickler, Chairman  
Tom Boyko  
Robert McMillan

ATTENDEES: Deputy Clerk Carylon Cohen

The following is a non-verbatim transcript of the **CHARTER REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**, held at 9:03 a.m., on Friday, November 4, 2011, in Room 2160 of the Seminole County Services Building at Sanford, Florida.

The meeting was called to order by Subcommittee Chairman Larry Strickler who advised all members were present and no one from the public was in attendance. He stated at the last meeting, Robert McMillan brought up the fact that they had not received the long list of attorneys from the charter counties around the State. He had a conversation with County Manager Jim Hartmann that day after their meeting and also later that day with County Attorney Bryant Applegate and found out they thought they had provided it and have provided again this short list (copy received and filed) which is for nearby counties; and they also received previously the other packet of information. Mr. Applegate's concern was that the County wants to be helpful in having them gather information, but they want to minimize their conversation with other attorneys or law firms. Chairman Strickler stated that earlier this week, he took the short list and the survey list showing who represented each county and went back to the big packet list they had at the last meeting; and, based on both of those, he only came up with three names he could recommend. His thought was for each of them to do the same thing and see what kind of common list they can come up with.

Mr. McMillan asked to see the packet submitted on Sam Goren. He said that was one of the firms used by other counties.

Tom Boyko stated he came up with only two names in the entire group. The third name is the one Mr. McMillan asked to review (Sam Goren).

Chairman Strickler said he came up with the names of Sam Goren (Goren, Cherof, Doody & Ezrol, P.A.), Becky Vose (Vose Law Firm) and Allen Watts (Cobb Cole).

Upon inquiry by Mr. Boyko, Chairman Strickler said he had reviewed the information for Susan Churuti with Bryant Miller Olive and added that firm for four names.

Mr. McMillan stated the three names he has are Allen Watts, Sam Goren and Bryant Miller Olive. He said he had no problem with those four named by Chairman Strickler. Maybe, they can report those four names at the end of the next Charter Review Commission meeting and if that is okay with them, they can send to each of the four a request for background and information specifically regarding their experience representing charter commissions and/or writing ballot language, defending ballot language and who was the specific attorney who worked on that. When they get the information back, they can get the list down to three and can have them come back and be interviewed by the full Commission.

Chairman Strickler said they will short list the four firms, but when they ask for their input, they will ask for the attorney with the most charter experience so that they will get a resume from each firm. The first step will be to identify the four firms and then cull the list down to individual attorneys; and they will probably vote to do that in December. Then they can send out the information and be ready to take action in January.

During discussion, Chairman Strickler said, as they talked about before, they want to minimize the influence any attorney for them could have with the five elected officials. He thinks that is safer and cleaner. Mr. McMillan added that it protects them too from getting calls from individual Commissioners. He said to the extent they have as limited a communication channel as possible between the Commissioners and the attorney, the better off they are.

Upon inquiry by Mr. Boyko, Chairman Strickler said the Subcommittee's job is to develop the short list and the entire Charter Commission's job is to do the final vetting, screening and selection.

Mr. McMillan said if the full Commission wants the Subcommittee to make a recommendation, they can ask them to do that. He summarized that Chairman Strickler can make a report telling the Commission what information they went through and give the four firms; and unless the Commission has some changes, they will seek additional information from those four firms.

Chairman Strickler added that if someone wants to add a name to the list and everybody agrees, that name will be added to the list.

Upon inquiry by Mr. Boyko, Chairman Strickler said he thinks the two guidelines they came up with for looking for an attorney are the most important; which are, what is their background and experience in dealing with charters and what the level of contact and relationship is with the County Commission. Mr. McMillan stated also the relationship with any local powers. They don't want to put the attorney in the position of representing the Charter Commission and then getting involved in charter amendments that may adversely affect their private clients throughout the County. He said he is looking for

someone for their expertise and not because of their political ties.

Mr. McMillan disclosed that Ms. Vose contacted him before he left the County's employment and attempted to recruit him before he retired to join them in a proposal they were putting together to become the Osceola County Attorney. He told her it was not good timing for him.

Upon further inquiry by Mr. Boyko, Chairman Strickler said when you go through a RFQ (request for qualification) process, you should indicate your expectations and type of things you are going to pay for. He said the Subcommittee is supposed to be getting some generic language for that.

Mr. McMillan said he was sent copies of Seminole County's contract with Allen Watts and Orange County's contract with Becky Vose. He will review those before the next meeting. He said he is assuming that if the full Commission agrees to the short list, they will meet again and put together the letter to send to the firms asking for their detailed experience and a fee schedule. If they can send them a copy of the contract saying it is a prototype contract of what they are expecting, that will detail how they will get paid. It would say the attorney can get paid for travel but not paid a fee while he is traveling. They will pay whatever the going rate is for mileage. The attorneys will have the terms and conditions when they give their fee schedule.

Mr. Boyko asked if they are paying for telephone calls or when the attorney sends out a letter. Mr. McMillan said they will pay for that. They will have to make it clear in the contract who is authorized to contact the attorney. They will make it clear that calls have to come from the Chairman or whoever the Chairman designates. Chairman Strickler agreed it has to be one person. Mr. Boyko said his desire is not to have

the attorney sitting at the table and they don't have issues to talk about. He said he doesn't want to have an attorney on retainer either. Whereupon, Mr. McMillan agreed they won't have an attorney on retainer. Mr. Boyko stated all he wants to do is pay the attorney for what he is doing at the time. He thinks if the attorney has an outrageous fee, they should take that into consideration.

Chairman Strickler stated he agrees with what Mr. Boyko said, but the only thing the Subcommittee has been asked to do is what they have done. He doesn't think they need to discuss those details in this meeting as that is not their charge from the Charter Commission Chairman.

Mr. McMillan stated the fee is going to depend on the expertise of the attorney.

The **consensus** of the Subcommittee was to wait until next Thursday (November 10) to set another meeting.

Chairman Strickler stated Sharon Peters will prepare the list of the attorneys they are recommending; or Mr. McMillan said Chairman Strickler could advise verbally the attorneys the Subcommittee is recommending.

Chairman Strickler adjourned the meeting at 9:35 a.m.