

CARO CHARTER COMMISSION APPROVED MINUTES

Richard Ransford, Chair. Al Jones, Vice-Chair. Don Duggar, Clerk

Members Thomas Baird, Wm Bortel, Kerwood Crutchfield,
Joe Greene, Debra Lung-Lipan, David Mattlin

The first meeting of the Caro Charter Commission was called to order by Caro Manager Don Beavers at 7:00 PM on November 10 2008 at the Caro Municipal Building 317 S State St Caro MI 48723.

In attendance were the newly elected charter commission members, Manager Beavers, Village Clerk Karen Snider, Consultant Wm Beach and several public. Clerk Snider administered the oath of office the following: Thomas A. Baird, William Bortel, Kerwood Crutchfield, Don Duggar, Joe Greene, Allen Jones, Debra Lung-Lipan, David Mattlin and Richard B. Ransford.

Election of Chair: Al Jones was nominated but withdrew and moved to nominate Richard Ransford, seconded by Wm Bortel. Motion carried.

Chairman Ransford opened nominations for Clerk. Al Jones moved to nominate Don Duggar, seconded by Wm Bortel. Motion carried.

Chairman Ransford opened nominations for Vice-Chair. Tom Baird moved to nominate Al Jones, seconded by Kerwood Crutchfield. Motion carried.

Manager Beavers stated that he would serve in a support role only and not guide the process.

Consultant Bill Beach, from the firm of Miller Canfield presented the Charter Manual and spent considerable time explaining the role of a Charter Commission and the Constitutional Provisions of Home Rule Cities. Manager Beavers had previously supplied the candidate commissioners with sample charters from the cities of Reading, Chelsea, Perry and Harrison; a copy of Act 279 of 1909 known as "The Home Rule City Act" and a copy of a report entitled "The Nature and Purpose of a Home Rule Charter" and other materials. The commissioners were to review this material prior to the first meeting so they would be better informed.

Much discussion followed and many questions were asked of Bill Beach. Act 279 states that the commission must convene within 10 days of the election. The election being on November 4 2008 and was convened November 10 2008 therefore this provision is met. The commission also must frame a charter within 90 days after the first meeting and present a proposed charter to the electorate within 3 years. The commission is confident they can meet these deadlines.

Another provision in Act 279 is a division of assets between the old village, the townships and the new city. Village President Tom Striffler stated that he is currently in negotiations with the townships regarding this subject.

After discussing the many forms of government the new city could take, Chairman Ransford polled the commissioners on what form they thought was best. The commissioners were unanimous in favor for the Council-Manager form with an elected Mayor. A modified Roberts Rules of Order was adopted. The commission discussed at length whether to meet as a committee of a whole or have sub committees assigned to the various tasks. There will be more discussion at the next meeting. The commission felt that the Chelsea Charter would be the preferred model to follow at this stage of the planning process. The Chair instructed the members to study the first 4 chapters of the Chelsea Charter and items 1 through 6 of the Mandatory Charter provisions for discussion at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be at 6:30 PM on Tue November 18 at the Caro Municipal Building.

Baird/Bortel move to adjourn at 9:05 PM. Motion carried.

Respectively submitted

Don Duggar
Clerk of the Charter Commission