

**CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS SUB-COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting
April 29, 2010**

A meeting of the Constitutional Officers sub-Committee of the Charter Review Commission (CRC) was held at the Administration Complex, Room 106-B, Port Charlotte, Florida.

Roll Call:

The following members were present:

Andy Dodd, Joseph Goggin, Suzanne Graham

The following were not present:

Maureen Garrard, Patricia Kelly

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 4: 01 p.m. EDT by *Acting Chairman Andy Dodd*

Agenda Items:

1. **Approval of Minutes** of April 15 , 2010 Meeting: *Mr. Dodd* confirmed that all of the members present had previously reviewed a copy of these Minutes. There being no additions nor deletions the motion to approve these Minutes was made and seconded and the Minutes were accepted by unanimous vote. (Note: This approval took place at the conclusion of the interview with Ms. Barbara Scott).

2 **Interview with Barbara T. Scott, Clerk of Courts:** *Mr. Dodd* and the sub-Committee members welcomed Ms. Scott and thanked her for attending. Ms. Scott distributed some pamphlets to the members, as well as a copy of the 2009 Annual Report. This printed material is available in the Clerk's Office locations and contains supporting information as well as fee schedules, etc. Ms. Scott began her remarks by saying that she had been scheduled for interview as the last of the Constitutional Officers because of ongoing legislation and the potential effects on her office and budget. Ms. Scott indicated that the Clerks statewide were given a budget lower than the \$279 million that they needed, resulting in no raises nor additional staff. She elaborated that this particular budget is for the function of the Courts, indicating that she has three budgets (Courts, Official Records and Board of County Commissioners). She added that it was thought the Legislature was also going to take away the ten (10%) percent of fees that Clerks receive from all the criminal areas (traffic, misdemeanors, etc.) but that was retained. Ms. Scott added that the Legislature wanted the Clerks to get extra hearings for foreclosures and they had put money into the budget for additional magistrates and staff. She indicated that money was also supposed to have been taken out but thus far it had not. Ms. Scott said that seventeen (17%) percent of her budget was cut last year, adding that ninety five (95%) percent of her expenses are personnel and that makes it difficult to

requirements for the Constitutional Officers as this issue was already being drafted from a previous CRC meeting. Likewise a previous vote of the full membership had decided there was no need to change the rotation of names on the ballot. There was no discussion of changing the office of Sheriff to an appointed position. The members were requested to review the Minutes from all of the interviews and compile a list of highlights that they wished to see included in the Final Report. That Report will be presented to the general membership during a meeting on May 13, 2010, and a copy will be appended to the Minutes of that meeting.

6. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m. EDT



Andy Dodd, Acting Chairman