

**MINUTES**

**RAMSEY COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION**

**May 2, 2005**

**7:00 p.m.**

The Ramsey County Charter Commission met on Monday, May 2, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. at the St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Avenue, St. Paul, MN.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

District 1: James Speckman  
District 2: John Gulbranson  
District 3: Franklin Gurney  
Charles Aguirre  
District 4: Christopher Leifeld  
District 6: A. L. Brown  
Tienne Linden  
District 7: Bud Berry  
Mary Nepper  
At Large: Anthony Coletta  
Michael Fratto

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

District 1: Sharon Klumpp  
District 2: Robert Bell  
District 5: Kristin Dawkins  
At Large: Minoka Kitto

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Connie Catlin, Ramsey County Manager's Office  
Mark Pettit, Sheriff's Department  
Darwin Lookingbill, County Attorney's Office  
Bonnie Jackelen, County Manager's Office  
Bubba Aguirre

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Christopher Leifeld called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with a quorum present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A MOTION was made, SECONDED and CARRIED to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2005, Charter Commission meeting.

**CITIZEN INPUT/COMMENTS:**

None.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Subcommittee – County Commissioner Salaries

Sharon Klumpp is the chair of this subcommittee and she was unable to attend the May 2, 2005 meeting. The subcommittee will meet prior to the next meeting and prepare a report to present at the August meeting.

Subcommittee – Appointed vs. Elected Status of County Attorney and Sheriff Positions

The subcommittee has not met since the February meeting, at which time the issue was tabled to allow Commission members time to read the Hamline University report on this subject. A. L. Brown commented that he felt the report was dated and somewhat lopsided, but provided some good information. He is still interested in having public discussion on the issue, there being enough valid points on each side of the argument to provide for good debate. He stated further that he generally has a problem with people in the law being elected because they have a considerable amount of power to impose deprivation of liberty and they may have to work under less than ideal political circumstances. He stated a knowledgeable panel would be better able to objectively evaluate a person's qualifications for a particular job than the general public in an election.

Mike Fratto stated that he finds it troubling that the County Board sets the budget based on the known potential income based on the available sources and yet the Sheriff and County Attorney have the right to sue the County Board for increased funding. He also stated that if the County continues to elect the Sheriff, the eligibility should be broadened. At present, there are very few potential candidates for this position. It would be a benefit for the citizens to have a larger pool of candidates to choose from.

Frank Gurney stated that he feels the points made thus far lean toward term limits. He believes there is more accountability for an elected versus an appointed official.

How the public hearing process is handled is up to the Charter Commission members, whether to state the topic and invite key persons to speak to that topic or an open invitation to the public. A public hearing or hearings could be conducted at a regularly scheduled Charter Commission meeting or at a different time or times. Typically, in the past, the proposed amendment language is at least in draft form at the time of public hearing. If the goal is to solicit input from the public prior to the decision to proceed with the amendment, invitations could be sent to key persons in the community for discussion.

A vote was taken to close the debate on this issue and passed unanimously.

A MOTION was then made to begin the process of public hearings regarding the elected versus appointed status of the County Attorney and Sheriff.

AYE VOTES: Tony Coletta, Mike Fratto, Tienne Linden, A.L. Brown, Jim Speckman, Frank Gurney.

NAY VOTES: Bud Berry, John Gulbranson, Chuck Aguirre, Mary Nepper, Chris Leifeld.

MOTION CARRIES.

The issue has been brought back from a subcommittee to the Charter Commission as a whole; it is up to the leadership of the commission as a whole to put together a plan of action for this possible amendment and public hearing process. The action plan will be presented at the Charter Commission meeting in August 2005.

John Gulbranson suggested that in the interest of making the August meeting more efficient, perhaps the subcommittee could get together and discuss the possible amendment. The subcommittee members are: Chris Leifeld, Tienne Linden, Frank Gurney, Mike Fratto, A. L. Brown and Sharon Klumpp.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Janice Rettman was invited to this meeting but was unable to attend. Bonnie Jackelen had nothing to report on behalf of Commissioner Rettman at this time.

Bonnie Jackelen did state, however, that a new Ramsey County Commissioner was elected to fill the position vacated by Susan Haigh. Toni Carter has been representing District 4 on the County Board since April 5, 2005.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Update on Strategic Plan, Connie Catlin, Ramsey County Manager's Office

Connie Catlin presented an update on Ramsey County's Strategic Plan. She began by summarizing Chapter Six of the Charter, "Coordination of Operational Services and Planning," which governs the strategic planning process. Chapter Six states that the County Board will be responsible for countywide coordination of operational services and strategic planning. The County Board may coordinate this planning function through existing departments and work with local units of government, including school districts, to establish goals, objectives and implementation plans.

A November 2000 Charter amendment stated, "Beginning in the year 2002, the County shall prepare a comprehensive strategic plan periodically but must adopt such a plan every ten years starting with 2013."

Ms. Catlin briefly reviewed the strategic planning process to date in Ramsey County. In January 1991, the Ramsey County Board adopted its first mission statement, values statement and guiding principles. The departments went through an exercise to establish their own missions, which were then addressed in the countywide mission. In 1991, the senior management team worked on various goals and objectives, which were passed by the Board. In 1994 to 1996, as a result of the Charter, there was a community-wide strategic planning effort that resulted in the report entitled, “A Strategic Guide for the Future of Ramsey County,” which included 15 vision statements that were developed with a great deal of community input from over 400 people in the community. The focus of these vision statements was Community (Public) Health, Coordination of Land Use, Economic Development, Emergency Services, General Location of Utilities, Human Services, Parks and Open Space, Public and Elderly Housing, Public Buildings, Public Safety and Law Enforcement, Solid Waste Management, Surface Water Management, Thoroughfares, Highways and Other Public Ways, Transit and Youth Development.

In 2002, the Ramsey County Board began reviewing the mission, goals and objectives. After that review, the Board created a new mission statement, values statement, operating principles and goals and objectives, and also decided to review them annually.

In 2003, the County Board performed that annual review and made no changes. In 2004, the senior management team began a strategic planning process to review and identify the top strategic issues the County would face in the next one to four years. During that same time, the senior management team discussed how to develop the plan required in the Charter amendment of 2000—adopting a strategic plan every ten years.

Over the past year, the Board and senior management team attended a Futures Conference that included presentations from an economist from the Federal Reserve Bank, a futurist and a demographer. The senior management team incorporated the information gained at the Futures Conference into their planning process of identifying the top strategic issues coming up in the next one to three years and six strategic issues were identified to address in 2006-2007.

In October 2004, the senior management team presented their strategic issues to the County Board prior to the County Board’s review of its mission. In November, a County Board workshop was held to discuss what had been done on both the existing goals and objectives. The County Manager made recommendations on objectives and integrated them into operations.

At that time, the County Board reviewed its mission, values statement and operating principles and adopted them to continue without any changes. The Board also reviewed the information the County Manager and senior management team had given them and recommended some changes to those goals and objectives. Once that work was accomplished the Board met again in February 2005 and adopted the final mission statement, goals and objectives as follows:

County Mission - Ramsey County – Working With You to Enhance Our Quality of Life

Values Statement - Ramsey County is community centered and serves the citizens with integrity, honesty, respect, innovation and responsibility.

## Operating Principles –

- Service Comes First – ensuring the public’s health and safety is our top priority.
- Excellence – carry out the work of the County with professionalism and high standards.
- Valuing Employees – treat employees in our diverse workplace with respect and dignity so they can achieve excellence in their work.
- Fiscal Accountability – practice good stewardship of public funds and maximize resources.
- Communication – seek and encourage citizen input and feedback, and inform and educate citizens about the County’s needs and services.
- Responsiveness – understand the urgency of our work and do what it takes to get the job done.
- Collaboration – work together to build strong communities.
- Results Focused – be proactive about community issues with an emphasis on prevention and outcomes.

## 2005-2007 Goals and Objectives –

GOAL: Be a leader in fiscal and operational management, including working collaboratively with other sectors, in order to achieve the highest-level service outcomes by allocating available resources based on current data.

- Implement a Comprehensive Capital Assets Management and Preservation Plan to maintain high-quality services and maximize return on its public investment.
- Develop a governance, organization and financing structure to maximize the effective and efficient delivery of technology services to meet the County’s business needs.
- Develop a process to implement a two-year budget for Ramsey County that focuses on service outcomes.

GOAL: Gain support for transit and transportation initiatives:

- Secure federal, state, and other funds and political, local, and community support for transit and transportation options in Ramsey County.

GOAL: Focus on crime prevention and public safety:

- Focus on County programs that will help to reduce the rate of crime.

GOAL: Address the changing demographics in Ramsey County:

- Develop a plan to strategically address Ramsey County’s changing demographics within the internal workforce.

GOAL: Improve the quality of life for children, families, and individuals with special needs:

- Advocate for and implement policies, procedures, and programs that enable seniors to retain community-based housing, sustainable accessibility, and supportive needs.
- Develop and implement a plan for service excellence in the area of children’s mental health.
- Reduce at-risk issues for children and youth in Ramsey County.

- Increase capacity for emergency shelter to include a regional approach.
- Develop and implement a plan for service excellence in the areas of mental health and substance abuse.

Another Futures Conference will be held in May 2005, and speakers will focus on technology, state demographics and economics. There will also be a joint presentation by an economist with the Federal Reserve Bank and Chuck Nelson from the University of Minnesota on early childhood development.

During 2005 and 2006, the senior management team will focus on implementing objectives, will work on performance measurement system and will develop an on line Strategic Plan.

In early 2007, the County Board will again review the mission, goals and objectives for the 2008-2009 budget period.

Ms. Catlin then spoke on the County's comprehensive plan. She stated that all counties are required to have a comprehensive plan, but that Hennepin and Ramsey Counties differ slightly from other counties in that their comprehensive plans do not cover land use planning. Ramsey County's plan does, however, cover transit, transportation, surface water, parks and solid waste management, housing and the Mississippi River corridor. The comprehensive plan is summarized in a two-page brochure that is not available on line at present, but Ms. Catlin is hopeful that the next comprehensive plan will be available on line and perhaps on CD-ROM.

Chair Leifeld inquired as to how the challenges at the state level and the budget affect the 2005-2007 goals and objectives. Ms. Catlin stated that if funding is cut back, it could affect any one of the goals. For example, the goal of reducing at-risk issues for children and youth in Ramsey County is a prevention goal and many times, prevention activities are the first to be affected.

Chair Leifeld asked what portion of the County budget comes from the State; that is \$190 million out of \$500 million.

**SET NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next meeting will be Monday, August 1, 2005 at 7:00 P.M. at the Ramsey County Public Works Facility, 1425 Paul Kirkwold Drive, Arden Hills, MN.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A MOTION was made, SECONDED and CARRIED to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business to come before the Charter Commission, the meeting was adjourned.