

**GRAND COUNTY CHANGE IN FORM OF GOVERNMENT  
STUDY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING**

**Grand County Council Chambers  
125 East Center Street, Moab, Utah**

**MINUTES  
July 19, 2019**

**Call to Order**

The Grand County Change in Form of Government Study Committee (“Study Committee”) met in Regular Session on the above date in the County Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Stocks at 12:00 p.m. with a quorum present. In attendance at the call to order were Study Committee Members Judy Carmichael, Walt Dabney, Jeramy Day, Bob Greenberg, and Marcy Till; Committee Member Cricket Green arrived at 12:04 p.m. and Committee Member Jeramy Day arrived at 12:12 p.m. Also in attendance was Ruth Dillon (County Council Administrator) to take minutes.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Walt.

**MOTION:**

**Motion by Judy to move Item F, “Educational presentation on election district scenarios for Grand County,” first on the agenda, seconded by Bob carried 5-0.**

**Presentations**

F. Educational presentation on election district scenarios for Grand County

Mr. William “Bill” Cooper of Bristol, Virginia, districting consultant, attended by phone, introduced himself, and led a video conference using Maptitude software. He described the software as being designed specifically for redistricting purposes. He explained that the map he presented uses current school district and 5 council district boundaries. He further explained that he utilized precinct data from the State’s GIS (geographic information systems) website.

Mr. Cooper further noted that the Census Bureau estimates that a net of 500 or more people have moved to Grand County—with approximately 300 within the corporate boundaries of Moab City—since 2010 and that such figure could be off by 20% or more. Study Committee Members asked questions throughout the presentation. He stated that population figures are based on all ages, and that the 2020 Census data are not expected to be available until the spring of 2021.

Mr. Cooper demonstrated that, according to the 2010 Census, Grand County’s District 2 is currently underpopulated by 35%, that Districts 3, 4, and 5 are overpopulated by about 15%, and that District 1’s population is balanced. He provided live “what if” scenarios in map re-drawing, such as making a district a much larger geographic area. He explained that most of Moab City inhabitants are in District 2, with a significant number in District 1. He mentioned that there is only one rural district currently, which is District 3.

Judy suggested the possibility of two districts split nearly evenly, such as a city district and an unincorporated county district with approximately 4,500 population each.

Cricket explained that a number of new subdivisions have been created in Spanish Valley since 2010, many of which are secondary homes. Mr. Cooper responded that it is possible to see, as one factor, how voter registration has changed since 2010.

There was discussion regarding avoid gerrymandering. Mr. Cooper responded that it is best that the professional who draws the map not know where incumbent elected officials live and are not familiar with the jurisdiction itself.

When asked, Mr. Cooper said that his costs to draft a couple of plans and host another similar meeting would be at the most 3 hours (at a rate of \$150 per hour), and less if working at the existing precinct level. Mr. Cooper reported that he has all the information he needs, and that he can produce any requested draft plans in .pdf format. He stated that generally districts should be drawn contiguously. During the presentation he drafted a two-district plan based on estimated populations.

Chairperson Stocks inquired as to whether any of the plans drafted by Mr. Cooper had been challenged or overturned by the courts. Mr. Cooper responded with "no." He explained that he worked with San Juan County, Utah in redistricting, clarifying that he did not create the final plan and that his side prevailed in court just two days ago. Chairperson Stocks stated that he was aware of the recent 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court action to uphold the redrawn districts in San Juan County. Mr. Cooper expressed that it would be highly unlikely that his plan would be challenged.

Walt inquired as to whether the "one person, one vote" idea is defensible. Mr. Cooper responded that the two federal court metrics that matter are 1) Voting Rights Act (of 1965) and 2) one person, one vote.

The presentation ended and Chairperson Stocks called a 10-minute recess at 12:58 p.m.

At 1:08 p.m. Chairperson Stocks called the meeting back to order.

## **Approval of Minutes**

### **A. June 21, 2019 (Study Committee Regular Meeting)**

Chairperson Stocks requested any changes or corrections to the minutes. Bob stated that in Item J, the typo "bone" needs to be changed to "gone" to read, "He further stated that control has gone back and forth between liberals/Democrats and conservatives/Republicans many times, both before and after 1993."

### **MOTION:**

**Motion by Bob to approve the minutes of June 21, 2019 with the correction seconded by Marcy carried 7-0.**

## **General Reports – none**

## **Community Outreach and Possible Action**

### **B. Report on 4<sup>th</sup> of July booth event similar to Open Houses**

Judy reported positive results from the booth event for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration held at Swanny Park. She reported that participants received temporary face paint "tattoos" by Jeramy and popsicles by Marcy. She said that five Committee Members participated [though there were never more than 3 at any time] including herself, Walt, Stephen, Jeramy, and Marcy for a fun day that returned approximately 40 completed surveys. Marcy expressed that the booth received input from a different segment of the population from the Open Houses, with participation by significantly younger people with families as well as some seniors. Chairperson Stocks expressed that the temporary face tattoos were a smash hit, bringing more people to the booth; he deemed the event "fantastic."

### **C. Review and adoption of subcommittee narrative report in response to public surveys and emails received and discussions held at Open Houses**

Walt reported on the compilation synopsis of tallied survey findings, provided also in hard copy for the meeting. He explained that the subcommittee met this past Wednesday to review the findings and draft the synopsis. He also verbally provided synopses by location as follows:

### **Grand Center Open House:**

Council with appointed Manager recommended form of government had 3 times more interest than the nearest other form of government, the Expanded Commission.

5 or 7 members was virtually a tie with little or no support for 3 or 9 members.

Full time versus part-time status, part time was 3.5 times more of interest than full time.

Combination of voting by districts and at-large was 1.7 times more of interest than all at-large which came in second. Voting by all districts had virtually no support.

Marcy inquired about the number of surveys received from the Grand Center Open House. County Council Administrator Dillon agreed to provide the information to Study Committee Members as a follow-up between meetings.

### **Spanish Valley Open House:**

Council with appointed Manager was 3 times more of interest than the next, Expanded Commission.

5 members was twice as popular as 7; 3 and 9 members had virtually no support.

Part time was 5 times more popular than full time.

Combination of voting by districts and at-large was about 1.5 times over the next, all at-large.

### **Castle Valley Open House:**

Council with appointed Manager was 6 times more of interest than the next.

5 & 7 members virtually tied.

Part time was 9 times more of interest than full time.

Combination of voting by districts and at-large was 3 for every 2 over at-large. Walt reported that Castle Valley participants appeared very interested in being their own district, but stated that the population is only 300.

### **Fourth of July booth event:**

Council with appointed Manager was first, Expanded Commission was seconded, and Council with Elected Executive, which he reported had some interest, was third.

5 members was twice as popular as the next, which was 7, with little interest in 3 or 9.

Part time was twice as popular as full time.

Voting all at-large was slightly more popular than a combination of voting by districts and at-large, an anomaly from among the other events.

### **Other:**

Walt reported that the "Other" category (over 100 unmarked surveys requested by individuals) was not calculated in this way, but that data from the "Other" category are included in the cumulative total.

**Cumulative/synopsis** (County Council Administrator Dillon reported that approximately 250 surveys were received on time):

Form of government: Council with appointed Manager came in first.

Number of representatives in the form of government: Either 5 or 7 with major support, 5 had the most support, 7 with some less. Three or 9 had very little support accumulatively.

Part-time versus full-time status: Part time had significantly more support than full time.

Voting at-large versus voting by district or a combination of both: All elected at large or a combination of at-large and districts, with little support for electing by all districts.

Judy reported that there was no “us and them” or anti- or pro-party discussions throughout the process, having herself attended three events.

Bob stated that the interviews of County Elected Officials including Council Members, the County Council Administrator, and Department Heads were very consistent with what the general public seems to want.

Walt stated that there was a lot of expressed appreciation from the event attendees.

Marcy reported that citizens have told her that they trust the Study Committee for a recommendation that will be thoughtful and comprehensive.

Cricket reported that she has received all positive remarks off the streets, that citizens are happy to share, and that they feel they are being heard.

Chairperson Stocks reported that there have been some letters, including a letter to the newspaper editor(s), that the Study Committee could be perceived as supplanting their judgment over voter judgment from results of elections on the matter over the last 25+ years. Further, he reported that comments from some surveys stated that Grand County’s form of government has been this way so long that the commenters believed that the process has been hijacked.

Walt reported that no one seems upset about the process, but that Open House participants stated that they were upset about being forced to have to make this change in form of government. Bob reported that he received similar sentiments.

**MOTION:**

**Motion by Jeramy to adopt the report as a formal document seconded by Bob carried 7-0.**

D. Suggestions for additional public service announcement(s)

Marcy reported that KZMU (during Howard Trenholme’s show) would like to interview different Study Committee Members once recommendations are made. Walt suggested for the public service announcement to indicate that the Study Committee has gone through this period of time of public engagement and will talk through the recommendations to be made and to invite the public to the Study Committee discussions. Marcy suggested that she could thank the participating public for their input for the surveys, invite the public to follow the Study Committee via the webpage ([www.grandcountyutah.net/change](http://www.grandcountyutah.net/change)), provide the Study Committee meeting dates, and remind the public that the meetings are open to the public. Bob expressed that the Committee has done a really good job of getting informed and from a variety of sources.

**MOTION:**

**Motion by Jeramy to table for further discussion this Item D and to table Item E, "Suggestions for next newspaper editorial regarding the public engagement process," until after the final agenda item which is Item K, "Discussion on recommending voting by district or at-large or a combination of both." The motion was seconded by Walt and carried 7-0.**

**Citizens to Be Heard - none**

**General Business- Action Items- Discussion and Consideration of:**

- G. Approving proposed schedule for additional regular Study Committee meetings beyond August 9, 2019 and updating the flyer accordingly

Council Administrator Dillon presented the proposed additional meeting times made available in the packet, stating that Chairperson Stocks had suggested adding one additional Friday to each month beginning in August and ending by Thanksgiving. Such proposed dates are based on the most number of Study Committee Members' availabilities.

**MOTION:**

**Motion by Bob to adopt the proposed schedule with a change to delete November 22 and to add November 8, with the same meeting start time of noon seconded by Marcy carried 7-0.**

**Discussion and Possible Action on Study Strategy**

- H. Report on additional fee information for engagement of outside counsel, continued from April 12, 2019, and approving proposed contract award for drafting the Optional Plan Ordinance, postponed from May 17, 2019

**MOTION:**

**Motion by Bob to accept the proposal of Gavin Anderson and to authorize the negotiation of the interlocal agreement between Grand County and Salt Lake County, was seconded by Jeramy.**

Bob reported that he read and has comments on the interlocal agreement and was glad to see a not-to-exceed amount of \$7,500. He stated that Items 3C(i) and (ii) need to reflect Stephen Stocks as contact/Chairperson rather than Marcy Till. He inquired specifically as to whether the Study Committee needs to be specific regarding travel reimbursement.

Marcy and Bob suggested contacting those who had provided proposals in order to express gratitude for their interest. Committee Members expressed their appreciation of Mr. Gavin's proposal for not having to be billed for travel time and mileage; for a reasonable hourly rate; for Mr. Anderson's expertise on this subject; for the fact that all Study Committee Members have already met and respect Mr. Anderson; that there are no conflicts of interest; and that this subject holds a personal interest for Mr. Anderson. Committee Members determined that Chairperson Stocks will negotiate with Mr. Anderson for the final interlocal agreement. County Council Administrator Dillon agreed to draft a thank-you letter for Chairperson Stocks signature. **The motion carried 7-0.**

County Council Administrator Dillon agreed to see about placing the interlocal agreement on the County Council's next consent agenda.

- I. Discussion on recommending number of representatives for the future form of government

Chairperson Stocks stated it is important to know that if the Study Committee chooses 5, the Committee cannot recommend the 3-person Commission form of government.

J. **MOTION:**

**Motion by Marcy to move Item J, "Discussion on recommending one of the four forms of county government" prior to this matter, "Discussion on recommending number of representatives for the future form of government," was seconded by Walt.** She stated that the form of government comes as a more logical progression before determining the number of representatives. **Motion failed 2-5 with Bob, Cricket, Jeramy, Judy, and Chairperson Stocks opposed.**

Bob reiterated there is virtually no support for 3 or 9 members of the governing body by the public or by the Study Committee, which leaves a recommendation for either 5 or 7 members. He said there would be financial savings with 5 with a request to consider the voters

Judy reported on her research on Summit County of 30,000 population in which she found that 5 members seems to work well. She reported that Summit County has a County Manager and a Deputy Manager. She expressed her interest in saving money in order to get expertise in hiring of the top managers.

Walt expressed that 5 representatives had a lot of interest from the Open Houses. He continued that Morgan County is similar sized to Grand County but much less complex and they are recommending 5. He supported the idea of moving funds toward the County Manager position.

Cricket expressed that 3 representatives is not enough for part-time representation.

Marcy expressed that even though 7 has been desired by the public over the last 25+ years, State Code requires that the Study Committee determine whether the administration could be strengthened, made more responsible or accountable to the people or significantly improved by efficiency by changing the form of government. She expressed her opinion that 5 is more efficient, while still allowing for diversity.

Jeramy expressed that 7 or 9 are "too many cooks in the kitchen," and that with only 3, the electorate had the opportunity last fall to vote down the ballot question which would have, if passed, defaulted the form of government to a 3-person Commission. He expressed that with 5 there is more opportunity for recruitment of candidates while giving an opportunity for a voice greater than 3.

Bob expressed that while the law sets out what issues, such as efficiency, that the Study Committee is to consider, there is no guarantee that such issues will be found. He reported that he had heard from County Department Heads that the form of government with 7 works okay but is not wonderful in their opinions. He continued that the biggest Department Head complaint is that the Council Administrator has too big a span of control (too many direct reports). He stated that the minimum requirements of a new plan of government will be met: partisan, term limits, and no recall. He expressed that more people can mean less government and proposed thinking of another number of representatives on the governing body other than 5.

Walt inquired of opinions from Bob and Judy who are former Grand County Council Members. Judy stated that 5 Council Members did the lion's share of the work, while others seemed forced to be there. She stated that it will be easier to find 5 good candidates than 7 to be elected, but both figures are workable. She expressed that she prefers 5 for financial reasons.

Marcy referred to the Pareto Principle in which 20% of the people will do 80% of the work or 80% of results will come from just 20% of the action.

**MOTION:**

**Motion by Jeremy to have the Plan specify the number of 5 representatives on the governing body, whatever form ends up being recommended, was seconded by Cricket.** Chairperson Stocks expressed that with fewer seats there are better odds for recruiting good candidates. Walt expressed that the public from Open Houses showed interest in doing something about the fact that some Council Members are not performing. **Motion carried 6-1 with Bob opposed.**

K. Discussion on recommending one of the four forms of county government

Marcy expressed her interest in selecting a form of government that will “encourage candidates who want to be leaders- active, passionate, committed, involved leaders for our county.” She spoke on behalf of the Expanded Commission form of government for the potential to attract candidates who see county leadership as a responsibility as if they were full-time employees, and the possibility of attracting professional politicians. She referred to a drawback that the Commissioners are not required to hire an Administrator, which is needed by our county. She then spoke on behalf of the Council form of government with a hired Manager which allows expertise to run the county responsibly.

Bob expressed that Grand County currently has an Expanded County Commission mislabeled as a County Council, which he found to be a most significant point of confusion for participants at the Open Houses. He stated that Gavin Anderson had reported on his observation that counties have moved from Commission form to Council form and that Councils tend to be less engaged because they have only legislative authority. Bob continued that County employees clearly expressed a preference for a professional manager over the governing body for day-to-day operations, thus a Council form of government would need to be recommended. It was further stated that Mr. Anderson had indicated that an Administrator could be required of an Expanded Commission by ordinance but this act would be breaking new ground. Cricket pointed out that the new body could vote out the Administrator position and become the managers of the day-to-day operations.

Judy expressed that as a former Grand County Council Member and Planning Commissioner, she would be more inclined to run for a board that would be making legislative decisions rather than executive/administrative decisions.

Jeremy expressed that Commissions can be more engaging, such as with problem-solving. He continued that a Council form provides a real separation of powers with the executive power placed with the Manager.

Chairperson Stocks discussed separation of power.

Bob that commissioners can change their salary at any time and that Utah is an at-will state allowing for the firing of managers at any time. He also added that commissioners scan be fired by the voters only every 4 years.

Cricket expressed that Council Members can also be fired every four years. She expressed that since the current form of government is already running like a commission, that if part-time Commissioners were in place, then they would likely hire an Administrator.

Walt expressed that, in speaking with current and former County Council Members, they were/are not clear on the form of government that is currently in place. He stated that separation from day-to-day operations is hugely important. He continued that the majority of participants from the Open Houses wanted a Council with a professional Manager to oversee the day-to-day operations or an Expanded Commission format without the Commissioners getting involved in the day-to-day operations. Walt illustrated anecdotally, “If everybody is responsible, nobody is responsible.”

Marcy expressed concerns regarding pay scales for the 5 representatives in the new form, which she stated might inform the form of government to be recommended. She reminded the Study Committee that part-time status is not yet a recommendation by the Study Committee. She expressed an interest in protecting the day-to-day operations of the County.

Chairperson Stocks expressed that if the names of “Council” or “Commission” were altogether different names, perhaps responses would be different. He continued that a Commission means that they run the government, stating that he has faith in 5 individuals to be in office will know that Grand County previously had an Administrator.

Bob expressed that the crux is to either nail down the requirement that the governing body hire professional management for the day-to-day operations or leave it to hope. He continued that if the Expanded Commission form is recommended, the Commissioners have both executive and legislative power, can move their salaries to full-time, and could determine which of them would manage what departments, some of whom may not have any supervision experience. He expressed that there would be no assurance of having the day-to-day management expertise needed to run as complicated an organization as the county organization.

Committee Members expressed the need to think this over prior to taking action.

**MOTION:**

**Walt moved to postpone Item J to the July 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, seconded by Bob carried 7-0.**

- L. Discussion on recommending voting by district or at-large or a combination of both

Chairperson Stocks recommended a recess rather than postponement of this matter.

M. **MOTION:**

**Motion by Bob to postpone this matter, "Discussion on recommending voting by district or at-large or a combination of both" to the July 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, seconded by Walt failed 1-6 with Cricket, Jeremy, Judy, Marcy, Chairperson Stocks, and Walt opposed.**

**Prior to the vote, Chairperson Stocks encouraged and then called a 5-minute recess at 2:48 p.m. with unanimous support.**

**At 2:57 p.m., Chairperson Stocks returned the meeting to order and provided a snack.**

Bob expressed that the strong preference from Open Houses was to vote for at least a majority of the governing body, and a preference to change things as little as possible while seeking improvements. He explained that with voting of 2 at-large seats and 3 district seats, all would vote for a majority and would contribute to diversity.

Marcy agreed that individuals expressed interest in voting for at least a majority, or possibly 3 at-large seats and 2 district seats. She suggested 2 metropolitan districts and one rural district, with the bulk of rural Grand County in one district including Castle and a lot of Spanish Valley.

Jeremy expressed that diversification representation is needed, stating that we currently vote for only 3 of 7 Council Members. He stated that individuals in our community want to vote for all their representatives, and that he is in favor for voting all at-large. He stated that we have two demographics: rural Grand County needs and downtown community needs which could represent 2 districts. He suggested having 2 districts with the remaining 3 seats at-large. He stated that the votes affect all of us, regardless of which district we live in. He expressed the need to have the intent of districts.

Walt expressed that the combination of voting both by district and at-large from the surveys was the most popular, as well as in all 3 elections over the last 26 years. He said he learned about district issues that citizens are experiencing that are specific to their district and expressed that there are district differences, such as those living at the San Juan County line due to the growth of Northern San Juan County. He reminded Study Committee Members that the districts are currently skewed in terms of population. He indicated interest in the matter of urban versus metropolitan.

Cricket expressed her opinion that, as a small community, districts are not needed. She cited St. George as a city without districts.

Marcy expressed that having all at-large could bring the best candidates yet expressed concerns as to



whether the officials would ensure that outlying communities are actually represented. She said that if Moab City proper is about half the population, perhaps having just 2 districts could help set up a platform based on their geographic areas for candidates to run on.

Chairperson Stocks expressed that with a city versus rural district setup, there could be liaisons and tasks associated, such as a liaison to Moab City and liaisons to specific geographic districts. He expressed interest in 2 districts and 3 at-large. He stated that there is not enough population for Castle Valley to have their own district, to which Bob agreed.

Staggering of terms was briefly discussed.

Bob brought up the notion of “tyranny of the majority” with all at-large seats, which occurs when the minority views do not get real representation on the governing body. He also raised the cost of campaigning, perhaps three times more expensive for at-large campaigns versus district campaigns. He expressed that there are suburbs in our community, such as communities east of 4<sup>th</sup> East, Hecla, Mountainview, Steenville, and so on and that a third district should be considered. He expressed his current preference of 2 at-large and 3 from districts.

Judy expressed the desire to be able to vote on all who decide on use of tax money. She expressed a desire for the Committee to be unanimous on this matter if possible. She further expressed her interest in having urban and rural as separate districts.

Walt expressed that, with 2 districts of urban and rural and 3 at-large, at least one rural legislator will be in place.

Jeremy expressed that he could compromise on the idea of 2 districts of urban and rural.

Bob stated that districts do not have to be drawn on the legal city boundaries; rather it is the neighborhood of the city boundary. He differentiated unanimity from consensus.

Committee Members expressed the need to think this matter over prior to taking action.

**MOTION:**

**Motion by Jeremy to postpone this matter, “Discussion on recommending voting by district or at-large or a combination of both” to the July 26<sup>th</sup> meeting was seconded by Bob.**

Chairperson Stocks encouraged a vote today. Bob and Jeremy indicated the need to discuss this matter with their party constituencies in order to sell it. Chairperson Stocks expressed concerns about doing so. Marcy suggested that next week, if postponed, the Study Committee should be sharing new information rather than rehashing. Walt expressed interest in learning from the Democratic and Republican party constituents as to why the 2-district idea would or would not work and what they would recommend and why. Chairperson Stocks re-expressed his disinterest in setting a precedent to take the matter back to two political parties, noting that the matter is not being provided to those registered as Unaffiliated or some other party. Marcy expressed that, with next week’s news of a Study Committee recommendation for a 5-person body, feedback from the community would be likely. Cricket suggested that a decision be made at the meeting following the July 26<sup>th</sup> meeting (i.e. the August 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting) to allow time for citizen input.

**MOTION:**

**Substitute motion by Cricket to postpone this matter, “Discussion on recommending voting by district or at-large or a combination of both” for discussion-only/no action at the July 26<sup>th</sup> meeting and then on to the August 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting for possible action, was seconded by Bob.**

Jeremy expressed that the majority of the community is Unaffiliated, yet he will still get calls from those who are likely more of the Republican persuasion. He expressed interest in getting feedback from the public between now and the vote. Chairperson Stocks again raised his concerns regarding involving party

affiliations.

Walt inquired that, if the goal is to determine equitable and fairness for the county and to ensure that rural Grand County has a district seat, what is partisan about it?

Marcy expressed interest in seeing 2 districts and 3 districts on maps that could be provided by Mr. Cooper.

Bob expressed that the next newspaper editorial is an opportunity to express that the Study Committee is on the cusp of making recommendations, and for citizens to get in touch with Study Committee Members (such as via [studycommittee@grandcountyutah.net](mailto:studycommittee@grandcountyutah.net)) to provide their opinions.

**The substitute motion failed 2-5 with Cricket, Jeramy, Judy, Chairperson Stocks, and Walt opposed.**

**MOTION:**

**Chairperson Stocks brought back Jeramy's primary motion to postpone this matter, "Discussion on recommending voting by district or at-large or a combination of both" to the July 26<sup>th</sup> meeting for action, which had been seconded by Bob. Motion carried 5-2 with Chairperson Stocks and Walt opposed.**

**Chairperson Stocks took Item D off the table.**

- D. Suggestions for additional public service announcement(s), continued from earlier in the meeting

Marcy stated that a newspaper article from the attending newspaper representative will supplant a public service announcement.

**Chairperson Stocks took Item E off the table.**

- E. Suggestions for next newspaper editorial regarding the public engagement process

Chairperson Stocks agreed to update the newspaper editorial with the 5-member representative recommendation by the Study Committee. Bob suggested including information on the Study Committee's extraordinary public input process. Chairperson Stocks agreed to provide a draft to Study Committee members by Monday for review.

**Future Considerations**

Marcy suggested inviting Gavin Anderson to the next or the August 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, in person or by phone, to get up to speed with the Study Committee (once the contract is signed).

Marcy expressed that she would like a legal opinion from the State Attorney as to whether the new form of government could take effect sooner than January 1, 2023 via a special election. Bob reminded the Study Committee that two legal opinions have already been received, as well as the opinion from the County Clerk/Auditor indicating that a special election will not be possible. County Council Administrator Dillon reported that she today received an email via the County Clerk/Auditor's Office from the Lieutenant Governor's Office indicating that the Clerk/Auditor had submitted the question as to whether the county representatives can be elected into the new form of government during a municipal (odd-numbered year such as 2021) election cycle. County Council Administrator Dillon agreed to forward the email she received to each Study Committee Member, although it does not provide the answer. Marcy requested to have an agenda item on this subject for the next meeting.

County Council Administrator Dillon reported that she may be absent next week due to a family medical emergency and requested to have Bryony Hill from the Council Administrator's Office to take minutes and answer any questions for clarity sake; Committee Members agreed to the request.

**Closed Session(s)** (if necessary) - none

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:01 p.m. by motion that carried unanimously as made by Judy and seconded by Jeramy.



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Stephen Stocks  
Chairperson

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Marcy Till  
Secretary

