

**Notes of Elected v Appointed Subcommittee**  
**Sunday, March 7, 1:00 – 2:00 pm**

Meeting convened at 1:00 and members Dick Grout, Tony Ghazel, Paul Dossett, David Dehlendorf, Bob O'Connell, Maureen See and Kevin Ranker.

Moved by Paul Dossett, seconded by Tony Ghazel, to approve the minutes of 3/1/21. All Ayes, motion passed

Short recap of discussion on Sheriff, elected or appointed. Sheriff Ron Krebs will present at our next full commission meeting. I said that my concern was how much change the citizens could handle. We must choose our Charter and governance changes carefully. Dick Grout and Tony Ghazel will write summary of Sheriff pros and cons.

Next discussion was on the consolidation of departments: Auditor, Treasurer, Assessor. Many ideas were suggested.

We then reviewed our list of priority tasks, one by one.

Moved by Bob O'Connell, seconded by Richard Grout, to not suggest a change to the County Health Officer position. All Ayes, motion passed

Term limits will be made a place holder on future agenda.

Moved by Richard Grout, seconded by Tony Ghazel, that the County Manager should remain an appointed position, and in a friendly amendment, it was agreed that this subcommittee declines to pursue discussion on the scope of work, authority and function of the County Manager as identified on the priority task list. All Ayes, motion passed

Maureen See, Commissioner

There was a discussion of Sheriff being appointed vs. elected

- a. Two members discussed their opinion that the Sheriff being appointed may attract a broader group of candidates
- b. One member stated that they had concerns that if the Sheriff were appointed, they may become a "puppet" of the council
- c. One member stated that if the position were to be appointed, there would need to be very clear language in the Charter to make sure the Sheriff's duties are clear and the county council hire and fire that position, but not provide daily oversight as they have no expertise in law and justice

- d. One member stated that "If the concern is greater oversight over the Sheriff, maybe a strong law and justice oversight commission is a better solution?"

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- e. Concern that pushing for appointment may take a lot of energy and there is a question regarding whether now is the time
- f. decision to table the discussion until after he presents to the full CRC at next meeting

Members discussed the ability to recall an elected official under state constitution and existing charter. Members mentioned maybe strengthening that section

Discussion of consolidating departments between the Assessor, Auditor and Treasurer

- a. Members discussed consolidating the Assessor and the Auditor
- b. A consolidation could create substantial cost savings
- c. One member suggested eliminating treasurer and divide those tasks and staff between Auditor and Assessor - this was supported by at least one other member
- d. Another members raised the consolidation of treasurer and treasurer instead as both are "responsible for bringing in monies where as the auditor is responsible for spending"
- e. Pierce county is the only county with a combined assessor / treasurer
- f. Committee members expressed support for combining two of the offices with several suggesting the combination of Assessor and Treasurer a likely fit
- g. It was recognized that the Subcommittee needs to hear from the Assessor and Treasurer as they did the Auditor. We need to better understand the departments and what each of the staff in those departments duties are. How might department functions be consolidated?
- h. The computer systems between the auditor and the assessor are not compatible
- i. If one elected takes over two or three departments their salary should reflect

Consensus of Committee so far:

- a. should we consider additional consolidations for electeds
  - i. What can we include in addition to what is in statute - legally?

Kevin Ranker, CRC Chair