

**These minutes are for informational purposes only, as they have not been formally approved by the Charter Study Commission due to the termination of its formal meetings.**

**HOLMDEL CHARTER STUDY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2022  
7:00 PM  
HOLMDEL TOWN HALL**

**Call to Order**

**Open Public Meetings Act Notice**

I hereby announce that pursuant to Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in the notice, which was sent to the Asbury Park Press, the Two River Times, and posted on the bulletin board in Township Hall and filed in the Township Clerk's Office on December 28, 2021.

**Roll Call**

Chairman Kin Gee, Vice Chairman William D. Kastning, Commissioners Janet M. Berk, Gerald Buffalino, Zachary Gilstein and Special Council Kevin Starkey were present.

**Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence**

Chairman Gee: Can you please stand for the pledge of allegiance and remain standing for a moment of silence to honor our troops both here and abroad that work tirelessly to protect us each and every day.

**Approval of Minutes for Feb. 3, 2022 Meeting**

Chairman Gee ask for a motion to approve the minutes for the February 3rd meeting. Vice Chairman Kastning offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Berk. A voice vote confirmed all in favor.

Chairman Gee: Tonight, we're going to have a public hearing, but I'd like to make a few comments before we start. This weekend, some of you may or may not have gotten some texts and if you've been reading some posts on social media, you might reach the conclusion that somehow the Charter Study Commission has released or had given the order to release the Kraken and that Holmdel will be destroyed. If you read through a lot of stuff, there's things that talked about conspiracy, there's innuendos, but exactly how Holmdel is destroyed is not clear. If you cut through the rhetoric, it doesn't really describe that and I just want to make absolutely clear that the Commission has not made any recommendations and that if and when we do make the recommendations, they will be in a report, formally filed and ultimately, those recommendations will be subject to approval or disapproval by all Holmdel residents.

Since day one, the Commission has announced a three-phase process. Phase One is to study the Township Committee, which is the current form of government, that was completed in February. We interviewed lots of elected officials and collectively, they've served more than 60

years on the Township Committee, including more than 20 years as mayor. We had a public hearing on February 3rd.

In Phase two, we transitioned into exploring the alternate forms of government, we had presentations by two experts on the various forms that could be considered, and we heard from experts from New Jersey's unique ballot design and the line. Commissioner Gilstein had put together a nice summary of one, the current Holmdel Township Committee Former Government and two of the major forms, the key characteristics, and things like that all-in-one nice page. In addition, we interview elected officials that currently operate under the various alternate forms of government within Monmouth County, that includes mayor-council, council-manager, mayor elected directly or not, and elections held on a partisan and non-partisan basis.

This public hearing is to receive comments on you heard as part of Phase Two. In the next phase, we'll begin deliberation, discussions and make some decisions and recommendations. A formal report will then be drafted and submitted to the Holmdel Clerk. The Charter Study Commission at that point will formally end our statutory mandate and at that point there will no further involvement from the Charter Study Commission. There's also no involvement from the Township Committee because that report would then trigger a series of action steps which will ultimately lead to a referendum where the Holmdel voters will then vote to approve or disapprove the recommendations made by the Charter Study Commission.

The commission has had a public comment session at the end of all our meetings from day one, even though it didn't need to. The hope was to get constructive public input, instead, some have used the opportunity to ask questions like, whose idea is the Charter Study Commission? I don't know is the answer, it wasn't mine. The first time I found out was when it appeared on an agenda of the township committee in July, but more importantly it's not relevant in terms of what we're trying to do. A series of things have been triggered, the Township Committee introduced an ordinance to decide whether the Charter Study Commission would be on the ballot as a public question, it then went to a final adoption, all in public meetings legally adopted.

The ordinance then got placed as a public question on the November ballot and more than 6,000 people voted on it. After the official election results were tabulated and announced, the commission was formed, so things happen at that point, and this was last year's election issues.

Another question, why were there only five candidates that ran unopposed last November? There must be something nefarious about that. Well, that's actually a good question, I don't know the answer to that, but what I do know is that the Township Committee had five members that voted on that, all five were present at the introduction, at the final adoption, they all knew about it, which means that if they wanted, they could ask people to run. DJ Lucarelli voted on it at the introduction, he voted on it at the final adoption. Tom Cortelli voted on it at the introduction, he voted on it at the final adoption. In June, Rocco Impreveduto became the official Republican candidate and since he's running for the Township Committee in November, you think he's following it, he either knows or should know about this, because the ordinance was introduced in July. Eric Hinds had commented on this, a former mayor, so he either knows or should have known. The answer is, I don't know why there are only five of us who were in, but that's not the point, maybe you should ask them.

Here's something very interesting, just this week they announced there are two and only two Republican candidates that are going to be in the primary for the two seats, so essentially, they're going to run unopposed. I don't know, is there something the nefarious about that? Did

you know that in 2013, there were three Board of Ed seats open and only three candidates ran, so they ran unopposed. I don't know, was there a conspiracy in 2013? Did you know that in 2014 that also happened, there were three seats open and only three candidates ran, they ran unopposed. So, questions like that are not helpful in terms of what we're trying to do.

We have a mandate, we're on a fact-gathering mission to understand and study the current form of government and explore various alternatives. Now, if individuals want to use their allotted time to ask questions that are not relevant to the process, that's fine, that's their prerogative. What we will do is we will draw the line on personal attacks directed at commissioners up here, who have given up their time to serve on the commission without compensation, especially some of those allegations without basis and misinformation.

I'm proud and honored to serve with members of the Charter Study Commission who are up here on the dais. Vice Chair Bill Kastning is the chair of the Holmdel Environmental Commission, he serves on the Planning Board, he's the Executive Director of the Monmouth County Conservation Foundation. Some of you may have seen about preservation of open land, his organization's been doing it for 40 years. He serves on this thing without compensation, on his own time and effort. Sitting next to him, Commissioner Zach Gilstein, is chair of the Finance Advisory Committee, they provide and review budgets on a volunteer basis. He serves on the Planning Board, he serves on the Environmental Commission, again, all without compensation, all on his time. To my left, Commissioner Janet Berk, she is supposedly retired, but she's still on the Green Team, she teaches on a New Jersey program called CAP - Children's Antibullying Program, and as some of you may know that's a big issue for children, bullying, cyber bullying, you may have seen lots of stories about suicides of teens and others because of bullying. She serves on this, again, on her own time and effort without compensation. Next to her is Commissioner Buffalino, up until recently he was on the Zoning Board, again, without compensation. He serves as President of Preserve Holmdel, who have been trying to improve the quality of life in Holmdel, they fought against the Capelli complex when they were trying to build a huge complex with light towers over 80 feet tall that would ruin South Holmdel. He serves on that, as a grassroot movement, with no compensation, to help improve quality of life in Holmdel.

Now I'm the slacker in this group compared to these guys, for those who don't know me, my day job is a consumer advocate. In 2016, JCP&L wanted to bill a monstrosity of a transmission line through Aberdeen, Hazlet, Holmdel, Middletown, and Red Bank, and were going to put 230,000 transmission lines more than 10 feet wide at the base and 142 feet tall. If that had been built, Holmdel definitely would have been devastated and destroyed, because if you have a choice to live in Holmdel with high power transmission lines or move to Colts Neck or Marlboro, what would you do? I wouldn't want to live in a high-powered transmission line similar to Iselin or Woodbridge, but because of that, I was lucky to serve as co-president of that, and a lot of things opened my eye. I found a group called Charge - Consumers Helping Affect Regulation of Gas and Electric, that is meant to be a consumer advocate for New Jersey's three million individual consumers. Now, it doesn't really concern you too much, except that it speaks for a lot of people in Holmdel as well. Some of you remember couple years ago when we went to a winter storm, a very significant portion of Holmdel lost their power, some for only four and others were more than seven days or 10 days, a very significant portion. I went down to Trenton because there was a State Legislature, there was an Environmental and Energy Committee, and we provided testimony against JCP&L's lack of maintenance for the local distribution system. Charge is a grassroot group, I don't get paid for that, but in fact, I incur expenses, I drive to Trenton, I drive

to Newark, all on my nickel, besides the time and expense, mileage, towing, parking, etcetera. In 2018, South Holmdel was going through a situation where New Jersey Natural Gas was going to put in an industrial-sized gas regulator, I joined up with a number of Holmdel residents to try to put a stop to that, within a very short time we put together fantastic effort, we had a petition with over 1,000 people, we had a lot of people who spoke with the judge about that. Now, I live in Northern Holmdel, this is in Southern Holmdel it doesn't affect me, but I joined because that was not right, it was not good for Holmdel. In 2019, there was a release of a fire report, Holmdel in 2014 had shut down Fire Company No. 1 for over five years, and we have not had a fire company for more than half of Holmdel. There were all kinds of questions raised as to response time, more than four homes got burned to the ground, and that report finally came out and it was alarming. It was alarming for number of reasons, it said that we may not have had adequate fire protection, we may not have had adequate equipment, fire engines in particular, we may not have had adequate personnel, we were a volunteer fire force. Well, I found a small group called FAST, Fire Action Safety Today, and it took us three years, but now by the end of this month, we're going to have a dedication for a new firehouse, centrally located, they'll have much better response time. At the same time as the dedication of the new firehouse, there is going to be a wet down for the new fire engine. I live very close to Fire Engine No. 1, which is off Centerville Road up near Dearborn, fire response is not an issue for me, they can get to me in five minutes. It's something that I got involved in, I started the group, why, because it's not right for Holmdel, and what most people didn't realize, there was a hidden tax, there was a community fire rating that got dropped, and the homeowner's insurance that we all pay went up because insurance companies use that community rating. I won't bore you with all the details, but essentially there was a hidden tax between one and a half to two million dollars of hidden tax that we pay, but instead of the Township Committee passing that through to the budget and then going to a tax levy, we pay it directly from our pocketbooks to insurance companies.

I bring all this up not to get ourselves a nice pat on the back and good job or anything like that, but rather the fact that everything this group has done, service, civic duties, engagement, is trying to protect and preserve Holmdel. The point of that is next time you see something where they say, "the Charter Study Commission's going to destroy Holmdel," please, at least pause and think about and ask exactly how are they destroying Holmdel, give us the benefit of the doubt, wait for the recommendation to come out. Maybe you agree with it, and I hope you do, but if you don't, that's okay. We can agree to disagree, but ultimately you have the power. You can go to the voting booth and vote no, you could approve or disapprove, you have the power. Some describe the charter commission as all powerful, we're not actually, we're advisory in nature. Whatever we decide is a recommendation and it's up to the people in Holmdel to vote, to approve or disapprove.

Our next phase, we will deliberate, and we will decide recommendations and we'll file a formal report. Before we're do that, these public hearings are meant to allow the public to provide input to that process. Our hope is to get constructive, public input, hopefully not rehashing last year's campaign issue and again. We will draw the line; we will not tolerate personal attacks on members of the Charter Study Commission. With that, before I open it to the public, Counselor, is there anything you want to add?

Mr. Starkey: Yes, thank you Mr. Chairman, I'm Kevin Starkey, I'm the attorney for this Charter Study Commission and I just wanted to briefly review the limited purpose of this commission, just so everyone understands why we're here. The five members of this commission were elected in November, they serve for a limited period of time, it's generally nine to ten months,

and then the commission ends its business and the offices end. During that timeframe, the business of the Charter Study Commission is defined by state law, which allows this to happen and dictates what the commission can do. What the commission does is study the current form of Holmdel Township government and other forms of government that are permitted and are in effect in other towns, and then they make a recommendation. The keyword there is recommendation, this commission does not have the power to change anything in Holmdel, it only has the power to make a recommendation, only the people of Holmdel, by vote at the ballot box, can decide whether or not to change anything. It's important that every single action taken by this commission is done publicly, they all are. These are public meetings, they are publicly noticed, they are videotaped, there are minutes taken, and the public has a right to participate. You're all here today, you're going to have a right to get up to the microphone, you can speak your peace, you can say you like the government that Holmdel has or that you think there should be a change, you can comment on the issues that have been raised by the witnesses that have come here, that's your right to do that, but this is not like a trial in court, it's not adversarial, it's not even like a deposition where there's cross examination. The goal of the commission and of the public is information gathering, it's so people can have their input, so for that reason, I would say that personal attacks on members of this commission, on members of the public, on people who come here or who have come here to speak, there's really no place for that and there's no purpose in this for personal attacks. You are here to get up and comment on what you think the form of government should be and what those issues raise and you're free to do that, but just personal attacks really have no place and I just remind you that the members up here are volunteers, they're not being paid for this, they're here for a limited period of time and then they will be discharged, they were elected so they are serving the members of the public by sitting up here and I ask that everyone, whether you agree with the views expressed or disagree, that you just respect the people who are up here, as I know they respect the members of the public that are here as well.

Chairman Gee: So, we're going to open it up, if you are interested and wish to speak, raise your hand, you will be allowed three minutes to speak and if you could state your name and address for the record before you speak. We do have a timekeeper, Commissioner Gilstein, and I think that alarm will go off when your time is up. Anyone interested in speaking, please raise your hand.

Theano Kolovos, 8 Canyon Woods Court: My question to the commission is, what would you say is the biggest issue in Holmdel, because with all these speakers that you have up there, we hear about what's working in their town, but I feel like, as a newbie especially, I've only been here 2 1/2 years now. I can certainly do my own research, of course, but because you folks are up here making the suggestions, what is it about Holmdel that really isn't working? What's the biggest problem? Because for me, I see a government that's getting things done for the people, and everything you spoke about at the beginning, all the things that you accomplished, which I thank you so much for, those were for the people and you did all of that for the people, you guys got it done and some here in the audience, so why are we trying to change that, it's working for the people. I want to know what the biggest problem in Holmdel is that I don't know about, that some of these people might not know about, and that all of those new people that moved to our town since the pandemic started don't know, because that's what I'm here for today. I want to know what some people aren't telling me.

Chairman Gee: We spent most of January and February interviewing, as part of Phase One, that's part of the study. Remember, the Charter Study Commission is on a fact finding mission

first, so I would urge you on our website we have video recordings, you can go to YouTube and follow the Holmdel Township channel and you will find all the recordings of all the meetings that, as the counselor said, were public and were recorded and you can watch all that. During that process we had thorough interviews with elected official where we asked them about the Township Committee form of government and what they like and what they don't like to make sure we understand that. So, the Charter Study Commission was not formed with preconceived notions and ideas, so we interviewed elected officials and they mentioned good things, they mentioned some things that may not be as good in their view in Holmdel.

Commissioner Gilstein: A good reference is the summary that was done on Phase One, so we did talk to a lot of people about the township form and first, I've made this point in the past, it's not about that there's something really wrong in Holmdel, we have a great town and we're well run. We are really looking at, are there some things that we could do that would make us even better, and when we talk to people who work under the Township Committee, both in Holmdel and in other municipalities in Monmouth County, we heard several things where they said it would be even better if we could elect the mayor directly, it would be even better if we could have referendum and initiative. They actually mentioned a number of things where it could be even better, and then we heard from the public at the end of Phase One, at a meeting like this, and we had around a dozen people from the public make statements. Most of them spoke up for electing the mayor directly, having non-partisan elections, having referendum and initiative, so there were things they thought could be even better.

Janet Jackel, 31 Stony Brook Road: I have been in the town for over 40 years, so I have seen a lot of what's going on. I'm not one of those people who got the text over the weekend, but I did hear a lot because I've watched a number of your hearings, and one of the things that struck me was what the Marlboro mayor said. I thought his presentation was really interesting because he seemed very thoughtful, he was not in favor of non-partisan elections, he said everything had worked fine in Marlboro up to this point and then he said that if they stopped working, he would possibly change his mind. Now, I think one of the problems that I have seen in Holmdel is the way that the partisan elections can distort things and have in some cases led to very ugly accusations, not unlike some of what we have seen or heard in these hearings, and for that reason, I would very much favor going to a non-partisan election, but I did have a question about it. Our school board elections are non-partisan, and at the same time, we find that there are clusters of people, people form ad hoc groups to run together, if we were to move to non-partisan elections, would that kind of thing be possible? Would that make any sense? I guess you could always have a group, you could always put up your signs together, but would there be ways in which that could be recognized on the ballot? Or do you think it's a bad idea? That's basically my question, but before you answer, I would just like to thank you all very much. Full disclosure, I work with a number of you on a number of boards and have over the years, so I know how hard the work is and I really appreciate the work you're doing right now.

Commissioner Buffalino: Towards the end of John Hornick's interview, who is the mayor of Marlboro, he was asked the question about non-partisan elections. I believe his response was, "I didn't think so initially when I was running the government over the past nine years, but right now I would consider it because of the divisiveness that's been going on as a way to hopefully overcome it," because it's one of the features I think of non-partisan elections is it does in some cases smooth things out in terms of interaction with the boards and certainly with the Township Committees, so he did make that statement and if you want to check it is on video.

Commissioner Berk: Could Kevin address the issue about grouping on ballots?

Mr. Starkey: Yes, in non-partisan elections, the significance is that the candidates do not run on the party line, Democrat and Republican, but there are some towns where they allow grouping of candidates. For example, three candidates might run on the same slate or under the same banner and they allow them to be placed under that banner on the ballot.

Gene Luciani, 10 Country Squire Lane: I just wanted to say that I would be very much in favor of non-partisan elections. When you have a slate of candidates, all on one party, for example, we had our Mayor Buontempo, he wasn't on the Republican party ticket, they didn't want him to be the mayor of Holmdel and we managed to get him in anyway, but it was hard going when the Monmouth Republicans had just put a slate of candidates who were against him. So, I would be in favor of people just voting for people as they are and maybe not even having groupings, but just saying you fall where you fall on the ballot by a lottery or whatever and everyone would have to decide who they wanted to vote for. They have to know the person, not the party, that would be much better. So, if somebody was affiliated as a Democrat in the national elections but seemed to be a better candidate than somebody else, we should vote for them, and the people shouldn't have the crux of they should vote a party line. So, that's my point, I don't like the partisan, especially on a township basis, there's really no reason for it in my opinion.

Wes Fagan, 50 Chestnut Ridge Road: We agreed that all your expenses are paid for by our taxes. On March 3rd, I expressed my surprise that this commission's website, holmdelcharter.com, was soliciting donations to further the cause to PO Box 767. I asked was it legal and if so, was the donor list available to the public. By that weekend, the link was erased, and the site was scrubbed of any trace of misdeed. Chairman Gee rendered his opinion and alleged that I was confused. On page one in this study, published at saveholmdelnow.com, entitled Collusion, Voter Manipulation, Secrecy and Power: Holmdel's Charter Committee, it is here disclosed that this PO Box 761 is directly tied to Chairman Gee's Political Action Committee, its stated purpose is to advocate for non-partisan elections and public questions. Does that sound familiar? I originally believed Chairman Gee to simply be a concerned citizen who organized RAGE, fight for the little guy against the big electric company. He then pivoted to expose in his words "the party bosses," it turns out he is a political operative. This is not a study, it's a plot to change our government to align with "more modern standards," a dog whistle for his progressive values. He doesn't taint this committee, he poisoned it. As residents, we are so busy working, raising our families, and paying mortgages, we inherently trust our elected and want to be elected officials, are working in the best interest of Holmdel. Monmouth is one of the few remaining conservative leaning counties in an increasingly liberal state. You suppose that what happens in little Holmdel has nothing to do with state and national issues. The political figure who flips on Holmdel will expect to attract the attention of media, with Trenton and Washington DC assignments not far behind. Woke inspired political victories are significant, long-lasting, and lucrative. Politically motivated actors who continue to use the cover of a global pandemic to fundamentally change Holmdel, are not appreciated. Society should not encourage bad behavior. Regardless of our form of government, it is only good as the people in it. Divide the people, eliminate the norms of political affiliation, and erase the past. The commission is quick to remind us that they are technically "working within the system," they neglect to point out the intentional failure to engage the public and disclose that these five were the only ones who even knew how to throw their hat into the ring. It appears be a small contingent feathering each other's beds. You can pave over the blue line out front, outlaw party affiliation, eliminate definitions, but it's not the form of government that matters, it's the character of those individuals

that make the difference. At that March 3rd meeting, your supporters concluded, "it's not this commission's problem that the Holmdel residents were caught asleep at the wheel," "not paying attention during Zoom meetings of July and August, during the summer of COVID 202." The process fanned transparency but empowered only a few. I pray Holmdel will stand against sneaky players and stand up for ethics, integrity, and moral principles.

Kai Collins, 127 South Telegraph Hill Road: It's not the people that are the problem, I think you all have done wonderful things in this community. I got to know Kin back in the RAGE days when I moved here from Long Island City, and I was so happy to be coming to Holmdel and have a guy like this willing to go through what he went through to keep those monster power lines off of the property that we were looking to buy. It's not the people, when a change is recommended you have to dig into why make the change, what's so broken, and what I keep coming back to you and what I keep hearing and I've spoken with so many people at this point is it's the Republican Party in Holmdel. They keep winning and we don't like the influence they have, and so we need to change things. That to me says it, it's going to pave the way for the Democrats to have a chance in Holmdel, to get on these panels and, in my opinion, Township Committee. It doesn't matter the politics here, it doesn't matter at all, what matters is when you use this as a launching point to get up to the state level and I recently changed from a Democrat to Republican the past two years because of the broad authority at the state level that squashed rights and it came after my health and it came after my kids and it's unhealthy to have that type of broad authority. So, when I see some people in some of these forms of government would have that broad authority, it's highly concerning. I don't know why we would be looking at that locally. That's my biggest concern with wanting this change, is a broad authority for anyone. So, a question I have for you tonight, is in this mayor-council, I think I would rule that out because it gives the most authority to one person. The only one that would be doable would be council-manager and then my question would be, this business manager, do they hold more authority than the township administrator, and if we move to a council-manager, what's the big difference other than being able to petition for an initiative? What's the biggest difference between that and what we have now, our Township Committee form of government, because to me, something doesn't look right when I look at everyone's petition and it's the same Democratic voters who signed them all, so it's clear there's an agenda here that we want to kind of push the Republicans aside in this town and make way for more Democrats to come in and I'm not willing to roll that dice this year because of what transpired last two years. I think it's dangerous, I think the party wants to do things that are not going to be good for anyone in the world let alone Holmdel, and so I would only caution voters to watch for broad authority, watch for any change that is going to provide a launching point for any candidate to get to the state level and make decisions that are going to impact our most personal lives.

Chairman Gee: I mentioned a number of times that in Phase Three is when there will be deliberations, discussions, and then the recommendation will come out. So, we haven't made any recommendation, so just stay tuned, please.

Pankaj Shah, 18 Dearborn Drive: My family and I have resided in Holmdel very happily over the past 32 years, and my observation is that divisiveness that is so widespread in Washington between Democrats and Republicans. Over the past few years, I have seen it seep into Holmdel and my view is that that is moving Holmdel in a direction that in my opinion is not desirable. If I were to consider voting for somebody in Holmdel, what matters to me is what their ideas are, what they plan to do for our township, it really doesn't matter if they are a Democrat or

Republican. So, my request is anything you could do to move this township away from divisiveness, that would be happy. Thank you all for your time.

Barbara Singer, 5 Deerfield Road: I first like to address some information that is put out by residents. I appreciate at the beginning of the meeting; you're addressing some of that information. I feel you've all been trying to take the high road and not respond back to some things that have been said. There are points I've seen though out there that I would like to clear up. With respect to the lack of advertising for people to run for the commission, we need to distinguish ad hoc committees that are set up in this town and a commission such as this. This commission is an elected office, there are other elected offices in Holmdel aside from Township Committee, there are the county committee seats also. Our Township Committee has never had a town wide marketing campaign to get people to run for any of the elected offices. When people run for office, they don't go out there and say, hey, I'm looking for some opponents to run against me, anybody want to come do this too? That just is illogical. So, when people say that you secretly got your petitions done and friends and family signed all of them, that's how that's done for all of our races here. Depending on the number of signatures required, not every elected office requires the candidates to have to go ringing doorbells of people they don't know. This is in contrast to an ad hoc committee that the township sets up that where they do a lot of advertising about because they are looking for people to volunteer their times to be on this ad hoc committee. These are entirely different processes within our government, so they each have different procedures.

Getting back to some facts I'd like to clear up, information has been delivered as factual when the people obviously have not checked the facts. As the head of the Holmdel Democratic County Committee, I know a lot about what's going on Democratic campaigns, Democrats in the county, Democrats at the state level. Surprisingly, people who are making all allegations, not one has come to contact me, yet I have reached out to numerous people who have been up here opposing this commission and making these false allegations. So, I will take it on to address some of these points, for a basic example, a statement that Senator Gopal was in Holmdel for a fundraiser for a Democratic candidate last year, he was not in Holmdel for the fundraiser, attendance is an easy fact to verify, it is not a conspiracy for people in the same party to support one another. I point this out because it just shows that time is not taken to verify these facts, also, the event was not hosted by anybody on this commission, I read that online. False, the event was hosted by a family friend of the candidate, I organized the event with the candidate. With respect to Senator Gopal running this state, because it's mentioned that Red Bank is doing the same thing, that's in his district, the Red Bank initiative is Republican led, not Democrat led, so that is not being run by Vin Gopal. He's never approached me about doing this in Holmdel, that has not happened.

Finally, I'd like to say despite the fact that many of us are coming at this with different ways we're thinking about it, Kai Collins and I agree on the end result and I'm sure that many other people here I've spoken do too, that is we would like to see the council-manager form with a weak mayor and non-partisan elections. So, at the end of the day, maybe we all can actually agree on what we do think is best for Holmdel.

Janelle Michella, 2 Oak Tree Lane: I just want to first actually jump in really quick and just address Barbara, I had the pleasure of speaking with Barbara at one of the last meetings, she's extremely sweet. We had a great conversation, but I really didn't know her from a hole in the wall at that moment. I'm new to the politics situation in Holmdel and so, one of the first things

and main things that Barbara said to me that stuck out was that by having partisan elections and by having elections during a normal voting time such as November, it doesn't give the opportunity for the underdog to get in. Well, that's because the underdog is an underdog for a reason, the people don't vote for them for a reason, so you want to have off-season elections to sneak in people that we don't want was basically the conversation we had and it was very awkward to me to own that, to be honest with you, but everything else we spoke about we had a lot of ground on, and I come from a very conservative and Republican family, I'm the liberal of my family amazingly. So, with that I will actually want to jump into what had I planned to say. So, the charter study says that they're giving power to the people is the whole idea, but who acts for this power? Giving the power to the people to vote for bigger government is giving people the power to fool themselves into thinking they're making a change and giving power when everyone knows that their government means less power to the people. Removing the party's affiliation and having off-season elections might be the only for non-favored and unknown politicians to get an in, but it would be ridiculous to think that that gives power to the people, that removes power to the people. It is the job of the candidate to promote themselves and win the voters over. It is also a well-known fact that off-season elections mean less people come out to vote. We vote the Township Committee in and the mayor's chosen from those people, we do have a direct voice in who the mayor could be, it's one of them. The Marlboro mayor also stated, in listening to what he had to say which was excellent, that a corrupt mayor could be devastating. Well, that's horrible to hear, that's a very big risk that I don't think our town needs. If you want to clean up the ballots, great, but did you see the section that had thirty plus candidates running for a position as one of the examples, who even gets a vote then? That's ridiculous. A small town like Holmdel does not need big government. Every person up here in favor of these changes is also proving that is not needed as the labels haven't stopped the ability of people from multiple parties to get in. Everyone has said this could do this to help that, but we got in anyway, so why do we need it, and knowing the party affiliation of a candidate allows for people to know where their loyalty lies regardless of how kind a person they are. By the way, I stood outside in crummy weather for over an hour at a Middletown School to get in the public hearing and listened to hours of residents fighting against big electric for RAGE, I too was one of the people who spoke out. Good ideas are supported regardless of who is behind them.

Alexei Milgram, 79 Tukulusa Drive: What I wanted to say is, I'm not going to relitigate how you got here, I think it's done, you are here, you are doing what you were elected to do. I honestly just wanted you to say two things purely around what you're here to do, one is I know that you've brought in a lot of other Monmouth County townships and towns and politicians to talk about how great or how not so great they are, their town governances. When I was a kid, I was always told if other kids jumped off the Brooklyn Bridge, would you? The same thing here, just because someone else changed their way of governance doesn't mean Holmdel has to. So, when we look at this, let's not just look just because everyone else does it, we have to do this as well. It's about what truly works for us, and does it even matter when we talk about mayor and council, they like to talk about Red Bank and Tinton Falls and Marlboro. Let's talk about another mayor and council setup, let's talk about New York City. How well does that work out? We know how it is, so let's just pay attention to that. And finally, I do want to bring up one of my favorite sayings in the world, it's actually said by Ferdinand Porsche, which I assume everyone here knows, and he said, "To change is easy. To improve is hard." We talk a lot about change, but let's not take the easy way out, and let's actually do something that's actually better for Holmdel, not for the elected officials, not for the parties, not for the politician and trust me, I've read the

prints, so I know that the compensation doesn't have to be just with monetary compensation. So, let's talk about how we can improve not just for the officials but for the people that live here in the town.

Francine Campus, 2 Country Squire Lane: First of all, I want to thank each and every one of you for your service to this town and for being on the commission, because regardless of whether people feel about how you got there or whatever, you're putting in time and you're making us aware of things we would not know. There was a lot of people in this town, including myself, that don't know what goes on, what could be an improvement or not, and based on what you said, you're not the be all, this will go to the voters, the voters will make the decision, and I implore the people of this town to get involved because that's what's wrong. When you're not involved and kept up, when you hear issues, you're not listening. Find out all of their recommendation, thank them for their research and then make your decision which way you want to go. I have my opinions upon non-partisan elections and everything, but I won't even share it here because I don't think that's what's important. I think what's important is we should thank the people here for bringing up issues, as Zach said, not because something's broken in Holmdel or needs to be changed, because it is a great town. I've been here for over 30 years and Holmdel is a wonderful place. It's a jewel and we should all work to keep it that way, and we should unite as a town to fight the outside forces that want to destroy what's here. You're all wonderful people, so please be involved, don't criticize these people that want to make you more informed about what's really going on, and vote and then your voice will be heard.

Tom Santora, 8 Willow Road: Whatever decisions you make, we'd love to hear them. I think, as you said, the voters should be heard. My question is, when will this be on the ballot? Will this be a November ballot when most of the voters will be heard, or will this be September and October to enforce the changes that you recommend on the November ballot? Whatever the recommendations are, so be it, but I think what would serve Holmdel the best would be for most of the people in Holmdel to vote on it, so I think it should be in the November ballot. Whether you're for or against the charter committee, and I've spoken to a lot of people here for and against the charter committee, and I think everybody can agree that it should be on the November ballot. So, I just ask that whatever you recommend, it's fully transparent and I hope that it would be in the November ballot because I believe that would be when you would receive the most feedback from the voters and isn't that what it's all about? So, I hope it's on the November ballot and I'd like an answer because, obviously, no recommendations have been made. A lot of people have asked questions and yes, Phase Three hasn't ended yet and I understand that, but the fact is whatever the recommendations are, it should be basically heard by most of the Holmdel residents. So, I just ask that it's on the November ballot and I'd like an answer tonight whether it will be, because whatever recommendations you have, you guys should know what ballot, whether it's September, October, that doesn't pass the smell test. So, I would say I'd like if it's on the November ballot and that's it.

Commissioner Buffalino: What's the difference? Can you explain what the difference is?

Mr. Santora: If it's on the November ballot?

Commissioner Buffalino: No, if it was sooner, what is the difference? You're telling me it doesn't meet the smell test, but I'm having trouble understanding.

Mr. Santora: Most people vote in November, would you agree?

Commissioner Buffalino: Yes, because that's when the national elections are, but they also vote in June for the primary.

Mr. Santora: What percentage would you say vote in June and what percentage would you say vote in November?

Commissioner Buffalino: It depends on the election.

Mr. Santora: About. Would you say half?

Commissioner Buffalino: It depends on the election.

Mr. Santora: I would say it's probably about 25%, I didn't even know there was a June election. So, what I would ask is that if you want the most transparency and the most feedback from the Holmdel residents, I would ask that it's on the November ballot and it doesn't look like it's going that way, but I would say whatever the recommendations are, please let the voters of Holmdel pick their own government.

Chairman Gee: Counselor, I wonder if you could, I think this came up before in terms a timetable. So, one of the things obviously, a lot of things that trigger when the commission can reach its conclusion and file for it, but if you could maybe address.

Mr. Starkey: I know the decision hasn't been made, but I can tell you the parameters that determine that and it's essentially when their report is issued. Statute sets up when the election is to be had based on when the report is issued. When the report is issued, if a general election is to be held, I believe if it's not less than 60 and not more than 120 days after the issuance of the report it goes to the general election. If there is no general election within that time frame, then it goes to a special election and those dates are also determined by state law when that would be. It can't be within 20 days of another official election, or it gets bumped later and it can't be on a holiday or something like that, but it again is within 60 to 120 days after the issue of the report.

Mr. Santora: Do you agree that November would get the most amount of Holmdel residents to vote?

Mr. Starkey: I have no idea how many would vote on this in in any election. I mean, it depends on the enthusiasm that comes out from Holmdel residents in terms of how eager they are to vote on whether to change the governor or not.

Demetrios Orfanitopoulos, 4 Devon Court: Basically, I love that sheet you prepared, you did a great job. Can you talk about how the districts or parishes would apply to that sheet? Thank you.

Commissioner Gilstein: Wards, or at large, is another characteristic that's permitted in council-manager or mayor-council. Since the input that we got was almost uniformly that there were only a couple people who thought that it would be better to have wards, I didn't list that as a key characteristic, but it is a choice that we have that we'll make a decision about, both in mayor-council if you wanted to break into wards you could and then council-manager, you could break into wards or you could have everybody elected at large or you could actually have a mixture. Township Committee is only at large election.

Bob Miskiewicz, 48 Centerville Road: I'm totally backing the gentleman before that this should be in November because the town's been a pretty good town to live in for many years, and to be honest this is the only time I've ever heard tension in the town is because of this. So, if you're trying to make the town better, I don't see where it's making it better. I mean, it's causing a lot of grief in the town. So, I feel if it's in November, everybody gets a heads up. We could talk about it throughout the community. Otherwise, people aren't really going to know what's happening and I don't know how much time you need in order to put a vote together, but I don't feel it's right. I feel like there's a lot of contention here and I've never experienced that here. This is something very radically different and it's not radically better so it's actually radically the other way. Those are my thoughts, but I agree with him, I think that November would be the way to go, people can talk about it, they'll be expecting it, they're going out to vote. A lot of people that have their own businesses, it's very hard to break away and in the middle of the who knows when and vote, they're waiting for election day and they're taking a lot of time out to vote. So, this is definitely not making it a happier place to live.

Delia Fagan, 50 Chestnut Ridge Road: I'm a little bit confused and the question is, I guess it's to the attorney, I was under the assumption that you can only vote two times either in the general election in November or the primary in June. So, am I clear in what I was hearing that the election could be another date? I know you gave 20 days, the days before the days after, so am I confused of what I just heard or could the election be in June and not in November, it could be in another in September, October.

Mr. Starkey: The answer is yes. A special election can be held other than June and November. I can tell you that the special election if there is a question, a recommendation by the Charter Study Commission, it will not be on the June primary ballot. It cannot be because that is a partisan ballot, so this will either be at a special election not June and not November or November. Those are the only options that are in the law.

Sheila Franklin Gilstein, 11 Chardonay Drive: Full disclosure, I'm married to Commissioner Gilstein for 41 years. I'm also on the recreation advisory committee. I'm also the former president and current secretary of Preserve Homedale. I'm also a former member and chairperson of the Holmdel Drug and Alcoholic Reliance. I've also contributed financially or in-kind support to most township committee elections since 1986, including the Republicans, the real Republicans, the independent Republicans, the Democrats, the independents, and if you don't understand my reference to the real Republicans and independent Republicans, you haven't been going back and doing research on our town and our things. So, I've lived here for a long time. I really would recommend, after seeing everything for 36 years, that we can move to a council-manager position where we take our Township Committee and we add the important parts of directly electing a mayor, having non-partisan elections, being able to do a referendum, which I have done before with Preserve Holmdel and it's very difficult, you can only do it with an ordinance and not otherwise, and have the same set up where we do have an administrator and that the mayor has equal vote. Some people state that this current Township Committee set up is just perfect and fine, it has done us well and it hasn't done us well. So, my point is that there are truly interested and motivated residents that have not been elected in local government because it is being controlled by a political machine in Freehold. This also happens in New Jersey towns, and it doesn't matter, it could be Republican machine, a Democratic machine, but the county level is controlling the local government, and my feeling is that Holmdel residents are intelligent, they're discerning, and they don't need to be told who can run for mayor or Township Committee based on their party affiliation. It's time Holmdel took back home rule and the power

to govern their own town. I think we should move forward, make our town better, and recommend council-manager form of government.

Chris DiMari, 7 Oaks Drive: All your past accolades does not change the fact that this study has been tainted from the start. It will leave a stain on Holmdel's 165-year history. Everything the mayor told us about this commission would represent has been false, and I'm really tired of the commission insulting Holmdel residents when they claim to be the only ones who cared enough about Holmdel to put in the time to become a powerful commissioner. It's not a conspiracy to say that you are Mayor Buontempo's handpicked team, or Kin that you started a political action committee with intentions for changing to non-partisan elections. It is clear why Holmdel residents were not properly informed. It seems like this is being done for people who can't win elections in Holmdel, it is up to people to convince our voters to elect them. It's not up to people to change our form of government just to make it easier for them to win elect elections. Holmdel continues to be one of the most desirable places to live, and people are proud to be here. There's no pressing need for change. So, let's look at the study, you brought on long tenure Democrat politicians from other municipalities who have never operated in the township form of government, and you called them experts. You claim to be using these areas as models for Holmdel, Holmdel is a prestigious town and in a league of its own and as Mayor Buontempo stated, Holmdel is the model. The forms of government you are considering changes to favor the politicians, not the people. This is why the Faulkner Act has been used to change local governments primarily in New Jersey's largest cities, go ask those residents if they feel like it's power to the people where they live. In these strong mayor forms of government, the elected mayor has been given almost total administrative authority and a clear wide range of political independence. The Marlboro mayor even quoted coming out of the strong mayor government said that when you get a corrupt mayor, it's devastating to the town. Why would Holmdel take this risk? Mayor Buontempo just took full advantage of Holmdel residents, and yes, that's why I'm here to inform because I did unfortunately not know, that he took full advantage by pulling this off during a pandemic. Why would we want to give strong power and less oversight, including four-year terms to one person? When you marketed to residents that they could directly elect the mayor, did you tell them that when they go to the ballots, they won't know who's Republican or Democrat, who shares their values? Non-partisan elections are more susceptible to low voter turnout and manipulation. This is something people who can't win elections in a conservative leaning town want. Politicians do not go out of their way to change the government structure to get more power to the people, we already have power to people in our current township form of local government. Where we directly elect five committee members, and the power remains balanced. I strongly oppose this charter study. Kin, you had mentioned that once the recommendations are made, that the Charter Study Commission or Township Committee will no longer be involved. Does this mean that this time around, we will not see campaign signs littered all over our town by the mayor? We still don't even know who paid for these signs, saying, "Vote yes." Does that mean that neither the commission nor the mayor or any township committee members will campaign to vote yes or no?

Ralph Purcell, 18 Red Coach Lane: You talked about the people on the committee here are not getting paid, they've done so much hard work, but if we do have a paid mayor in this town, who's going to pay that? Is it the people in this room that pay our taxes? Are we the ones that are going to pay for it? Another thing you mentioned about is this big conglomerate electric thing coming through Holmdel, from what I remember, I had to pay out of my own pocket to help support Holmdel from not having that conglomerate coming to our town, okay? I don't know if

anybody remembers that, but they asked us all for donations to pay for the lawyer to stop it. Another thing I want to know, is this thing about petitions, how did all of you get up here with your petitions? I know I've been going around banging my head trying to get a petition signed and it's taken forever, but yet all of you people had them already and walk right in. I mean do you all have the same hundred that you needed. Did all of you get twenty each, and then just share them and mimeograph or copy them and give them to each other? Because this is very hard thing to do to get somebody to sign a petition.

Commissioner Gilstein: Just one comment that you made about where will we get all this money to pay the mayor if we elect the mayor? Just to be clear, the Marlboro mayor mentioned he gets paid \$4800, and we pay our mayor \$6,200 in Holmdel. I looked up what the other ones pay, Tinton Falls, Asbury Park, Ocean Township, and even in these alternate forms of government when you elect the mayor, all these towns that we interviewed, the mayor is still getting paid about \$6000. I just want to clarify that even under these alternate forms of government, the mayors that serve under those forms of government in the local municipalities are all making the same \$6000 or \$7000.

Chairman Gee: I keep saying this, but let me repeat it, because it's not getting through. Until the Charter Study Commission makes a recommendation, I have refrained from answering certain questions because we don't know exactly what the recommendation is or what form, and even then, it will depend on a whole bunch of stuff. This is purely hypothetical, if for some reason, the Charter Study Commission elects to go to what you would call a strong mayor, mayor-council form of government, within that form of government there are at least two ways I can think of how the mayor could be, for lack of a better term, setup. One form is Marlboro, but he tells you he's not full time, he gets paid \$4800. There could be other forms of government where the mayor is a full-time job. In our town, and in others, most elected officials are part time, they get pay a stipend. So, at some point, someone I think made a suggestion from the public that they would like to see a full-time mayor and get paid \$140,000, the commission has not made any suggestions about that and if the recommendation is for mayor-council, there would be no suggestions in there about that, that's going to be up to the council and the government itself to do that. We're not making any suggestion as to that. Could that happen? A lot of things could happen.

Terrence Wall, 170 Laquinta Court: I thank you for your time today. I appreciate it. I think that it's also great that you want to keep the rhetoric down, so this way I won't be muted when one of your commissioners on my right takes a swipe at my wife, because it's not going to happen when I'm muted. This time, Mr. Buffalino, not going to happen again. I'm here to talk about the Township Committee form of government and the reason I'm here to talk about it, I served nine years on the Township Committee, I've been elected several times to the Board of Education, spent about a decade on the Holmdel Township first aid squad, I grew up in Holmdel Township, I went through all the schools, I graduated the schools. I'm here to speak on behalf of the Township Committee form of government, which has been assiduously ignored and kicked to the curb, and there's an irony about this folks, the Township Committee form of government is a fine form of government, you have five elected officials, they work for the township at large. This is not a large town, it's a small town, a small rural suburban town, it's worked well for over 150 years. Exactly, I don't know, I'm not a historian, but a very long time. All of the reasons that folks are here are due to the work and efforts of Republicans and Democrats that served on the Holmdel Township Committee. Very important to know when you go to the polls, and I have a comment about the polls because there is an extremely interesting point that really speaks to

the complaints and criticisms that this is a progressive Democrat takeover of this lovely community, and it really speaks volumes. The Township Committee form of government is very simple, let's talk about the things that the elected officials don't control, they do not control the police department, that's the chief of police in Title 40, they do not control the tax collector, that's a certified tax collector to the state, they do not control the tax assessor, the tax assessor is a certified tax assessor responsible for the state, the construction office, the electrical subcode, the plumbing subcode, the construction official, they all are tied to regulatory affairs in Trenton. So, before we consider this massive role the Township Committee thinks they play, you have to realize that power has a very small P and the drama that this group has put forth is astounding and the point I want to get to, we have heard, and correct me if I'm wrong, this commission say, time and time again, that the voters will choose. If you like it, say yes. If you don't like it, say no, it will be your choice, you're going to have an option, you're going to be able to go to the polls. Do you know the form of government that they're absolutely ignoring, shirking to the side, a traditional historic form of government, which is precisely how we got here, is the Township Committee. It should be option C, which is no option at all, to keep things the same, and then there's no election. Do the right thing and be transparent, folks. It's option C.

Ron Emma, 32 Ladwood Drive: We've heard how great the government has been for the last 100 years, 150 years, I'm here to give you a couple of examples of why our government is not excellent. I won't go back 100 years but let me outline some of the dysfunction displayed by some of our past government officials. October 2001, former TC member Terry Wall, get censured by the Township Committee for releasing non-public information. Shortly thereafter, there was an incident report filed by the Holmdel Police by the deputy mayor, saying he was confronted by Terry after a township meeting. The primary job of the Township Committee is public safety, South Holmdel hasn't had a fire coverage since 2014 when previous the mayor and Township Committee closed Fire Company No. 1. Numerous houses have burned to the ground in that time frame, this is finally being addressed with the new firehouse. However, we're still negotiating with Earl Naval Base to provide additional coverage for South Holmdel. 2012, Township Committee tried to sell public lands including Cross Farm Park to balance the budget. 2016, Capelli Sports Complex was allowed to move forward by the Township Committee, if not for the community opposition, we'd have a for-profit soccer stadium complex on Route 20. After that was defeated, the turf field battle switched to Cross Farm Park and the Township Committee authorized \$90,000 for turf field design at Cross Farm Park that included 80-foot light towers. There has been extremely questionable insurance payments promised between a former mayor and a former TC member. A former mayor included a Palmer Avenue plot of land that could be included in the affordable housing plan, that plot is now Barclay Square which includes affordable housing in an area that is prone to flooding. Last but by all means not least, a \$2,000,000 turf field was tried to be snuck into the consent agenda and that included the mayor instructing our town administrator to make turf fields the number one priority. \$75,000 was paid to T&M for design services for that field, that lead to her being forced out of her job, but not before receiving an undisclosed golden parachute on the way out the door, most likely in the \$100,000 plus category. Of course, that scandal led to our former mayor being censured, never before has a mayor been censured in our government history, not exactly what I would call excellent governance. I look forward to your recommendations that will allow all Holmdel residents a chance to vote on what you decide. That's transparency in a democracy. Thank you all for your efforts.

Jay Yannello, 18 Ladwood Drive: I'm actually impressed with Mr. Emma's research on some of those things because it takes time to look up some of that stuff. Summing up what Mr. Emma said, the claim by this, I would argue, extreme organization that has stolen the name of Save Holmdel from a very legitimate organization that I'm behind has claimed government excellence. To claim that Holmdel has, after more than 100 years, been operating under government excellence, you either have to be asleep, on drugs or delusional. It's a ludicrous statement, you can Google the scandals yourself. So, I think that immediately and indefinitely impugns that organization from being taken credibly. Beyond that, why are we here? I'm a devout Republican, I'm a pro-life, God-fearing Catholic. Why are we here? Because, the Republican Party in Monmouth County has polluted the well time and time again and most of the people behind this, that are supporting this and looking forward to hopefully good recommendations from you guys, are actually Republicans, because we're tired. They've put on conflicted, damaged, bad candidates time and time again, including when there was a public vivid record that these people were bad. So, I am for, I thank you for this cheat sheet and by the claim that my family was involved in some conspiracy to get you up there, I didn't even know, I thought we could use a menu and pick and choose from these things. I didn't know you have to stay in a grouping, but if it was my choice, I like the council-manager with non-partisan, I don't want wards and I would like five members and, I guess I'm going to disagree with some people, I think this should be in November. I agree with the opposition here, to show how credible I am, I think this should be in November and I don't know where you are on this. Let's make this as widespread and real as possible. Let people vote on it in the November election.

Larry Fink, 20 Algonquin Road: As some of you may know, I served on the Township Committee for 12 years, 4 consecutive terms, 3 of those as mayor of Holmdel. I applaud the efforts of this commission to act in a way that analyzes what we have, looks at alternatives, and looks for ways to improve Holmdel. We have a wonderful town, but we can always do better. I feel that the Township Committee form of government that we have had for a long time worked well some of the time, but certainly not all the time, and in my experience, I found that at each and every Township Committee meeting an inordinate amount of time was spent on what I would call partisan-based bickering. Often times, people didn't listen to one another, not because they necessarily disagreed with what they had to say but they disagree with someone because they happen to have a D or an R affiliated with them and that's unfortunate because when you're trying to solve problems and move the town forward, it's always better to focus on the issues at hand, look at alternatives for addressing those issues and then by consensus vote on the best course of action based on the merits of the issues. I can tell you from the 12 years of experience on the Township Committee that there were so many times when I experienced personal attacks and had to bite my tongue at the dais to try to control what could become an out-of-hand situation and there was so much needless effort focused on defending partisan attacks rather than paying attention to the issues and the merits of the conversation. So, for those reasons, based on my personal experience, I think it's certainly worthy of considering a non-partisan form of government. Do I think it's the magic answer to our problems? No, certainly not. Any of these forms of government that are under consideration are not magic solutions that will instantly change our town for the better or for the worse, but I think they all merit the attention that you're giving them, and I think that at the end of the day the recommendations that you will make will help us to try to be a better Holmdel and I'm really happy that the residents will be given the opportunity to vote on any recommendation that you may make. I thank you for your service.

Kai Collins 127 South Telegraph Hill Road: I want to put it on the record, I want to keep the Township Committee form of government, the only reason I'm looking at the council-manager is because it looks the same to me if I were to keep it partisan. So, long as the parties exist, partisanship is here to stay, I mean we know it's always going to infiltrate its way, it's kind of like opting out of the curriculum, it's kind of creating this way for bullying and sideways attacks. So, long as these parties exist, partisanship is going to thrive, it's alive and well, so to move to non-partisan, I'd almost want to do like two years' worth of research, test it out before we actually move to that. I don't know if there's a way to backtrack and go back if it's not working, but I don't like the idea of non-partisan government. So, if we went to council-manager, my biggest concern would be broad authority to the appointed manager, so long as that doesn't happen, I'm willing to consider it, it's a broad authority we have to come back to. So, what is the difference between our township committee if we stay partisan and we don't give broad authority to a manager.

Chairman Gee: Does any of the commissioners want to say anything? Hearing none, I will seek a motion and second to adjourn this meeting. Commissioner Kastning offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gilstein. A voice vote confirmed all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie K. Thomas, Commissioner Secretary