

# THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 20, 1992

## MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMISSION MEETING

The Martha's Vineyard Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, February 20, 1992 at 7:30 p.m. at the Commission Offices, Olde Stone Building, New York Avenue, Oak Bluffs, MA. A public meeting with the Dukes County Charter Commission was held at the beginning of the meeting.

Jennie Greene, Chairman of the MVC called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. and asked all persons present to introduce themselves.

Ed Logue, Chairman of the Charter Commission, discussed the proposal that had been sent to the MVC members previously. He discussed various parts of the report and in particular the recommendations contained therein. He discussed the previous public hearings and those coming up in the future before the final report. He explained the timetable of the Charter Commission and how the process worked. He discussed the various options available to the county and using Chapter 34A, he noted there were three options available under a new charter. He discussed a county manager that would be appointed or elected and the roles of each. He discussed the role of County Commissioners under this recommendation. He noted the recommendation of 7 county commissioners, the terms and means of election. He discussed the issues that had been considered by the Charter Commission and then discussed the relationship of the county and the MVC.

Ms. Greene then opened the floor for questions.

Mr. Jason asked if the appendices were available. Not yet.

A discussion of this issue followed. Mr. Logue discussed various budgetary problems with respect to all of the regional agencies in the county.

Mr. Colaneri questioned the role of the county if the new charter existed with reference to existing agencies. Mr. Logue felt that an informal cabinet would be formed to discuss common problems.

Ms. Bryant questioned whether the county manager would have any power over other agencies and boards. No power over any agency created by special act. A discussion of this matter followed. Mr. Logue discussed a number of issues related to the strengths and weaknesses of county government.

Ms. Bryant discussed the issue of whether counties could be abolished or not under proposed legislation.

Mr. Jason discussed the issue of accountability and why that term was chosen. A discussion of this question followed. Mr. Logue discussed overall accountability with respect to budgetary controls and measures.

Mr. Eldridge discussed Chapter 34A with relation to home rule and the functions of the county.

Ms. Gallagher questioned whether all Selectmen and others had been contacted regarding these issues. Contact had been made but no recommendations put forth as yet.

Ms. Marinelli raised a question regarding the sum of \$100,000. at the Airport and discussed Chapter 34A and the options open to create a large scale staff. A discussion of payment to county commissioners followed. Mr. Logue indicated that any and all salaries would be set by the county commissioners and that the issue of paying county commissioners had not been decided yet. A discussion followed. A discussion of whether there would ever be a large staff followed. A discussion of similarities and differences between the Cape and Island followed.

Ms. Marinelli questioned whether the county advisory board would continue. It would.

Mr. Early discussed the process of developing a budget and felt that no matter what the change, the county still needed to follow certain state mandates with respect to budget matters. Mr. Logue discussed budget matters with better controls and management.

A discussion of this issue of management followed. A discussion of estimated revenues followed.

Mr. Alley discussed the issue of revenue estimates and the reasons therefore. He also discussed budget formats set by the state. A discussion of these matters followed.

Mr. Jason discussed the point that what was being offered was similar to Executive Secretary to towns. He questioned the voter status requirement. A discussion of this issue followed.

Ms. Bryant discussed the budget issue and state guidelines. She asked about home rule and what things could be done without state approval and asked for a breakdown of the \$100,000.

Mr. Eldridge noted that a refuse district was one example and further discussed related issues. Ms. Bryant again asked for a breakdown of the \$100,000. Mr. Logue was not prepared to do so.

Ms. Greene asked for a general breakdown of the \$100,000. Mr. Logue discussed the possibilities of an addition fee for the purchase of gasoline and other matters. A discussion of how many matters could be considered followed.

Mr. Briggs raised an issue regarding home rule and various activities that could be undertaken and whether existing agencies were grandfathered or immune. Mr. Eldridge discussed representation and the past activities of the MVC. He further discussed what might be possible with a new county charter. Mr. Logue read a portion of Chapter 34A regarding possible activities. A discussion of this matter followed.

Mr. Alley discussed activities at the Airport. He discussed the routes that the Airport Commissioners were taking with respect to revenues.

Mr. Colaneri discussed the proposal and the present accountability to the citizenry of the Island. He discussed the problems that appear to be created and he felt that there was accountability presently. A discussion of this issue followed.

Mr. Logue noted that there would be no impact upon agencies such as the M.V. Land Bank and the MVC and indicated that there would be no magic among seven commissioners. A discussion of this matter

followed. Mr. Eldridge further discussed the role of a county administrator.

Ms. Marinelli discussed the issue of removal of special acts and could the county under a new charter create any special groups. Mr. Logue felt it could. Ms. Marinelli questioned whether there could ever be one town created. Mr. Logue felt that the language of the sections of Chapter 34A was clear enough to prevent such from happening. Ms. Marinelli asked what role the towns would have in creating agencies through the county. Mr. Logue felt that there would be a role for the towns. Ms. Marinelli discussed comments regarding explanatory items with respect to budgets. A discussion of this matter followed.

Mr. Jason discussed what was being offered and questioned how the charter might be amended in the future. Mr. Logue indicated that it was the same process as used to create the charter.

Mr. Logue discussed program budgeting.

A discussion of explanatory materials followed.

Mr. Stutz discussed the operation of the Airport, its management and other matters and felt that rule by committee could never work. He further discussed the role of a county manager in the airport picture.

Mr. Early discussed the type of explanatory materials available. He further discussed what he felt was being proposed and felt that it should not be looked on as a cure-all.

Mr. Sullivan discussed the potential of what may happen if the counties are abolished. Mr. Logue explained the proposed legislation.

Mr. Alley discussed the issue of state takeover of county functions or property.

Ms. Marinelli further discussed the possibility of a large staff being created. A discussion of this matter followed.

Mrs. Logue discussed the procedures for the change of county commissioners.

Ms. Marinelli discussed the issue of changing the number of county commissioners.

Mr. Chapin felt there were a number of good points raised and the Charter Commission should listen and include in the final report.

Mr. Fred Morgan discussed the financial problems of the county and expressed concern over the fact that any funds must come from towns possibly via an override of Proposition 2-1/2. He felt that a seven-member board was too much.

Mr. Stanley discussed the issue of management and having seven bosses. He discussed how policies were set and carried out.

Ms. Greene felt that maybe job descriptions and staffing issues needed to be addressed.

Mr. Logue indicated that he felt the meeting had been very successful and further noted that there were descriptions written into the document.

Ms. Greene cited a number of items that she felt should be included in the final document.

Mr. Eldridge questioned what the MVC felt should be a number of commissioners.

Ms. Bryant discussed the possibility of voters saying no county government and further discussed state actions. A discussion of this issue followed.

Mr. Fred Morgan discussed the loss of certain county functions to the state and what would happen on the Island.

Ms. Greene polled those present as to the number of county

commissioners that appeared plausible. The majority felt that 3 was best.

Mr. Donaroma questioned the role of a manager with respect to the Airport Business Park. Mr. Logue felt he would be in overall charge. A discussion of what may be the role of each followed.

Mr. Early discussed representation and how it would work to prevent some town overloading the system. A discussion of this matter followed.

Ms. Marinelli discussed the issue of loss of county government.

Ms. Greene asked how everyone felt with respect to whether there should be a county government. The majority of those present favored keeping the county.

A discussion of whether the airport could ever be lost to the state followed. Mr. Alley discussed this issue.

Mrs. Logue discussed the issue of a lack of a charter for the county.

Mr. Eldridge further discussed the issue of representation.

Ms. Bryant discussed the possible make up of county representation, and the present make up and how the county views the region today.

Ms. Greene thanked all for coming and hoped that when a new draft was developed that copies could be distributed to the MVC members.

The Commission took a brief recess.

Ms. Greene reconvened the meeting.

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ITEM #2 - Discussion

Ms. Marinelli felt that everyone should read Chapter 34A to familiarize themselves with the powers and duties of a new county commission.

ITEM #3 - Minutes of February 6, 1992

Ms. Greene asked that the minutes reflect that the MVC was accepting Tom Simmons' resignation with regret. All thanked him again for his excellent job.

On a voice vote the minutes were approved with three abstentions.

(Jason, Alley, Bryant)

ITEM #4 - Reports

Chairman's Report - there was none.

LUPC - Ms. Greene discussed the previous meeting at which the Island's economy was discussed. She noted that a task force was being developed.

PED - Mr. Early noted that there had been a DCPC Exemption Committee meeting to review an exemption for work on a structure which is in a poor condition.

Ms. Marinelli questioned whether a structure on the corner of Kennebec and Samoset was in the DCPC. A discussion of this matter followed.

