

# Minutes

## City of Bradford Government Study Commission (GSC)

Monday, February 2, 2026 @ 4:00pm

Everyone participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Members Present:

Jeff Kloss, Chris Salerno, Tom Shay, Roy Pedersen, John Venezia, Jim Tingley, Lyle Stewart, and Jim Evans via Teams.

Alternates: Mike Martin, Fred Proper, and John Venezia

Visitors: Terri Cunkle was present and also Terry Lopus-B

Interview dates were established for the next round of interviews with the Cities of Franklin, Warren and St. Marys. The members asked about talking to any of the Study Commission members who did the study from these three Cities. Terri said it was so long ago that they are probably passed.

Chris Salerno asked Terri if there was a municipality that went from 3<sup>rd</sup> Class City to Home Rule recently to question them about the process and the success of it.

Terri felt that New Castle who recently went from Third-Class City to Home Rule would be a great idea, they are larger in population, but it would be a great idea to interview them, she will get in touch with them.

Committees were established:

#### *Third-class*

Jeff Kloss  
Jim Tingley  
Lyle Stewart  
Jim Evans  
John Venezia (Alt)

#### *Home Rule*

Tom Shay  
Chris Salerno  
Roy Pedersen  
Fred Proper (Alt)  
Mike Martin (Alt)

Budget Committee: Nothing at this time. Terri said you won't incur any expenses until next year. The budget will go to City Council, and the Consultants will work through that with you at that time.

**City Interviews Discussion:** Terri gave the members a handout which outline discussion summaries for them to think about and jot down any questions they may have from the appointed and the elected officials' interviews, etc. They will be talking points when the committee comes together they can discuss the structure of each section.

Chris Salerno mentioned that they wanted to interview Mark Hollenbeck at their next meeting . Jim Tingley said that Eric was going to reach out to Mark Hollenbeck.

They discussed setting up interviews for maybe the Water, Sanitary Authorities and maybe the Bradford Flood Authority. Terri said, "If you're moving in that direction you got to remember authorities are quasi forms of government, so by going home rule those authorities are still going to remain the way they are. The commission could talk to them about how they work with the government. But they cannot be changed.

**Lyle Stewart:** Listening to the interviews I thought they were all very good, but when we listened to OECD, it was a vague description, maybe because it is a new executive director, but it didn't give us the workings of OECD.

**Terri Cunkle:** In their defense, you've got to remember those are three positions that could go away with Home Rule, but I don't know if they know, but that's okay if they don't know that. But in defense of them to take the devil's advocate you know that is indeed you know you don't answer to anybody as an elected official and all of a sudden now you're sitting here talking to 10 people like, "what's my job, what do I do". But as the elected officials I think I would be doing my homework on Home Rule.

**Lyle Stewart:** All the interviewees did really well, they all brought something to the table, Code Enforcement, however, said give the question and I can give you an answer, but we didn't know what the questions were. We all love what he does but is there a way we can help him more, so I would like to bring him back in.

**Terri Cunkle:** My suggestion would be, if there is anyone else you want to bring back to interview then get the other interviews done then come back around to the ones you're interviewing again. You will be more versed to ask the questions.

Fred Proper questioned whether or not they should interview Mike Schreiber due to working in DPMI/Code Enforcement and Board of Health. Chris Salerno said that as far a Mike, he does the secretarial portion but at the end of the day he reports to Brandon.

**Chris Salerno:** As far as Mike does scheduling, he works in both departments but at the end of the day he answers to Brandon.

**Tina Hallock:** "I work part-time in DPMI and Health Dept as well and I answer to Brandon as well."

Jeff Kloss mentioned that he chatted with Tina descending the stairs after the last interviews, and she mentioned she has done just about every position in City Hall and said that they should interview her as well.

**Terri Cunkle:** Have you not interviewed Tina, yet? You should, she might be a good one to bring in because she is well versed and has institutional knowledge.

**Terri Cunkle:** Asked the members if they want to interview three 3<sup>rd</sup> class cities that didn't go Home Rule process.

**Jim Tingley:** Only cities that went through this process. Would not do us any good if we just talked to a 3<sup>rd</sup> Class city.

They were in agreement.

**Jim Tingley:** "the interviews were a great from the POV of how the city works, but when I was reviewing the notes, I was questioning from the position of, does this help me decide which is better, HR or 3<sup>rd</sup> class city. And I didn't get a lot of that, it didn't help a lot from that point of view.

Tom Shay replied to Tingley and agreed with him because they get their direction from a department head and that is what they follow. Terri said you don't know what you don't know.

**Chris Salerno:** "The City Administrator and the Fire Chief did come to us with points that they said third class does block them."

**Terri Cunkle:** "Your comparison will come when you do the interviews with the other Home Rule municipalities." She said New Castle fresh and new. They would understand what it was like before HR.

Fred Proper discussed that the Committee members were elected from all aspects of the community and they have political respect from the community to discuss what's best for the community. It is best if City Council stays out of it and let the Commission move forward with it.

Tom Shay also thinks it's an asset to have someone from the city who can answer questions regarding the status of the budget.

Visitor Terry Lopus said that it looks a lot better than it has in the past. With Chris Lucco he set up a Capital Reserve fund, and we put monies in that reserve. Even in my time it has improved. What helped is a bond we got for the pension, ARPA funds helped as well. But we also take a TAN out which is a Tax Anticipation Note.

As a Home Rule, fees can be looked at and changed. The fees schedule seemed to get looked at when they are out of line or something needs to be looked at. Chris Lucco wanted to set up the fee schedule set up and run it on a budgetary basis. That was a recommendation from STMP. If there are fees that were passed by ordinance they that particular ordinance has to be amended. You can put the verbiage in the ordinance that reads, "Fees set by way of resolution". One member thinks it is out of scope of the commission but to have the department head to look at those fees.

**Terri Cunkle:** If you choose not to go home rule, in your report you can recommend in your findings to look at the fees.

**Other Business:** Motion made by Chris Salerno, once received the grant and deposited we will appoint Kafferlin Strategies. Seconded by Tom Shay. All in favor.

There being no further business, a motion for adjournment was made by Members Salerno, seconded by Jim Tingley. The meeting adjourned at 5:17 pm.

  
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Jim Evans - GSC Chairman

  
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Jeff Kloss - GSC Vice Chairman

**Next Meeting, Monday February 16<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00pm**