

- ❖ Opened Meeting @ 6 pm at Powell County Community Center. John Stavlo, Rob Kersch, Craig O'Rourke, Sheila Finco present. 0 members of the public were in attendance.
- ❖ Approved Minutes from previous meeting.
- ❖ Statements from public – N/A.
- ❖ Previous Business
- ❖ Report on Commission-Executive form of government will be delayed until after the meeting with the Butte-Silverbow Chief Executive
- ❖ Reviewed initial work on public (county resident) survey.
- ❖ Reviewed County Employee survey.
 - Initial results of returns of County Employee survey are as follows:
 - 26 out of 44 returned
 - 3 of 11 elected official returns
 - 8 of 10 supervisor returns
 - 15 of 23 regular employee returns
 - Recommendation to notify and give participants an additional week to respond.
 - Work will commence this week to compile survey results to be ready by next meeting.
- ❖ Presentation on Charter Form of government (Handout: Charter Form of Government compiled by Rob Kersch)
 - Interesting points:
 - The Charter Form of government supplements the other five forms of government: commission, commission-chairman (presiding officer), commission-executive, commission-manager, and town-meeting forms.
 - A charter is the local government equivalent of a state or national constitution, although it is subordinate to both. Ideally, a local government charter is a written document, approved by the voters within its jurisdiction, which defines the powers, structures, privileges, rights and duties of its local government and sets forth any limitations thereon.
 - A local government inherits (must have) self-governing powers if it elects to operate under a charter.
 - The principal advantage of detailing in a charter the structural characteristics and working relationships of the preferred form of local government is the improved clarity of roles and responsibilities of the legislative and executive branches of the local government.
 - One of the most important characteristics and advantages of a charter is the enumeration of any specific constraints on a local government's governing authority.
 - A charter can and should reflect any limitations thought to be necessary by a community wishing to gain the inherent but indeterminate flexibility of self-government powers.
 - A community might find that there is no particular reason to impose limitations on their local government at the time the charter is adopted, however, having a voter-approved charter facilitates the incorporation of any future limitations thought necessary by means of a voter approved amendment.
 - The Montana State University Local Government Center observed:
 - Of the several forms of government possible in Montana (and nationally for that matter) none would benefit more from clarification of government roles, responsibilities and relationships than the familiar and even venerated commission form of government.
 - Given that the Montana voters have approved only four of the 63 county charter proposals that have been placed on the ballot during the four cycles of Local Government Review, one of which was repealed (Madison County), we can only infer that the familiar courthouse structures of county government are generally trusted by their voters who apparently view them as generally adequate to deal with the modern problems that counties must confront.
 - All three current county charters call for non-partisan elections for the commissioners, the chief executive officers and the elected department heads.
 - The majority of charters impose a tax limitation of some kind on their local government.
 - The county and municipal charters for Montana can be found at:
<http://www.msulocalgov.org/Voter%20Review/charters.html>
- ❖ Work continues on creating the certificate establishing the existing plan of government

Robert C Kersch
Cmc 50 June