



Commissioners are wary

An idea pitched by Metro-York might not be wanted, they say.

By EUGENE PAIK
Daily Record/Sunday News

Article Last Updated: 11/19/2007 06:06:41 AM EST

Nov 19, 2007 — York County's new commissioners board said Sunday that it isn't sold on a suggestion by a local regional planning advocate that a different form of county government might be needed. Last week, Metro-York recommended that the county study its government and decide if it needs to be bigger.

The idea came as a surprise to incoming county commissioners Chris Reilly and Doug Hoke and re-elected Commissioner Steve Chronister, they said.

"I don't think it's the number of people that makes government better, it's the quality of people," Chronister said, adding that the county would be better off streamlining the use of its resources.

All of them said they did not hear calls to change government forms during their election campaigns this year.

Last week, Metro-York unveiled eight

recommendations that explored how the county might improve its public services by pursuing a regional approach. The group is a part of YorkCounts, a coalition that aims to improve the quality of life in the county.

Other recommendations included the establishment of a single police department to handle the metropolitan area, the development of a county magnet school and the creation of a tax study commission that would push for a reformed tax system.

Metro-York questioned if the county's current form of government was meeting the needs of its residents. Alternative government forms suggested by Metro-York were the adoption of home rule, which gives more power to the county, or an "optional plan" of government, which changes the local administrative structure.

Reilly said he is interested in the group's educational and police ideas, but he agreed with Chronister that a bigger county government did not mean better government.

Hoke said he wanted to conduct a personal investigation before committing to a study.

"With every issue, I need to keep an open mind, so I want to look at it myself," Hoke said.

GOVERNMENT STUDY

The argument

Advertisement



A bright idea in online advertising.

PrinterStitial® ads by Format Dynamics.



FormatDynamics®

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

ydr.com

Metro-York offers several reasons why there should be a study to see if York County needs a new form of government:

- It has been 30 years since a change was last considered, and the county has grown rapidly.
- It might be hard for three commissioners to represent the views of people from all over the county.
- Moving some public services to the county level could lead to cost savings.

Concerns

Recently elected county officials offered concerns about the idea of changing the county's form of government:

- A bigger county government does not necessarily mean better government.
- The county might be better off streamlining the use of its resources.
- The officials did not hear calls to change government forms during their election campaigns this year.

top

Advertisement



A bright idea in online advertising.
PrinterStitial® ads by Format Dynamics.



FormatDynamics®

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™