

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION MEETING
Regular Meeting
August 24, 2016
Police Department – Community Room

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Karen Marsden called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance included: Karen Marsden, Vice Chairman, Arthur Kuever, Dennis Donovan, Brad Sullivan, Lynn Hidek, and Eric Bergman.

Absent: James Staunton, Peter Nye, Gary Bousquet

Audience: Phil Sengle

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Marsden reported on an e-mail received from Brian Manware regarding his objection to the suggestion submitted by the Police Commission pertaining to the operations of the Clinton Emergency Communications Center. The Police commission has requested that the Charter be revised to allow the Police Commission the responsibility of overseeing the Communications Center. Mr. Manware requested that a meeting be scheduled with all appropriate parties to discuss the matter. Commission members were in receipt of Mr. Manware's e-mail.

Ms. Marsden reported on an e-mail received from Carol Walter regarding her suggestion that the Charter be revised to to include alternates for all Boards and Commissions, in particular the Police Commission.

As a result of an article in the Harbor News, the Commission received an e-mail from Hugh Adams in support of a Town Manager form of government with an elected BOF. An e-mail from Maria Foss, an Old Saybrook resident, also supported the Town Manager Form of government. She proposed that the requirement for a Town Manager to reside in Clinton be removed from discussions.

Please note the copies of the above correspondence is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Sullivan made a motion to approve the minutes from the 7/27/16 meeting. Mr. Bergman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS

Mr. Sengle, member of the Police Commission, replied to Ms. Walters suggestion that alternates to the Police Commission are needed. Mr. Sengle reported that the Police Commission has never discussed this matter and, in fact, does not have difficulty establishing a quorum at their meetings (as implied by Ms. Walters' e-mail). He continued that in the last 5 years, and approximately 90 meetings of the Police Commission, they have only twice not had a quorum. In his opinion, adding alternates to Boards/Commission would make it even more difficult to find volunteers for seats and is unnecessary. He urged the Charter Revision Commission members to reject the request.

Regarding the Communication Center, Mr. Sengle reported that the Police Commission is not trying to take over the Comm Center. He continued that responsibility for the Comm Center should be spelled out

in the Charter. He reported that they are currently taking responsibility for the Center, none of the day to day operations of the Center would change, and it just needs to be documented in the event of an issue going to court. The Police Commission is exercising responsibility and authority to run the Comm Center and the current Charter is silent on the matter. They are simply requesting that any ambiguity in the current Charter be clarified.

It was suggested that all interested parties meet to discuss the operations of the Comm Center.

Regarding Ms. Walters' request for alternates on Boards and Commissions, Ms. Marsden stated that unless and until the Charter Revision Commission receives a request from the Boards and Commissions themselves, she feels the Commission should not address this request.

OLD BUSINESS

September 7, 2016 Public Hearing

Commission members discussed the format for the upcoming Public Hearing.

Mr. Staunton, in an e-mail, requested that the slide presentation for the 9/7 Public Hearing include a slide for him at the beginning of the presentation.

Ms. Marsden reported that Anthony Genovese, a Town Manager in Woodbridge, is willing provide, at the Public Hearing, an overview of the role of a Town Manager. He will also be available to address any questions that may arise at the Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing is a chance to introduce and educate the Town to the concept of a Town Manager and elected Town Council form of government. The importance of providing both the pros and cons of a Town Manager was discussed.

Mr. Sullivan expressed disappointment with the lack of direction of the Commission, Commission member attendance at the meetings and the progress made by the Charter Revision Commission. He stressed the importance of developing a plan for the Charter and that the Town Manager segment is only a portion of the overall Charter.

Mr. Donovan suggested doing a poll at the Public Hearing to determine if residents want the Commission to further pursue a Town Manager.

Mr. Sullivan left the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Ms. Hidek will develop a Powerpoint presentation and distribute same to Commission members prior to the Public Hearing.

NEW BUSINESS

The Commission discussed various portions of the current Charter.

Ms. Hidek made a motion to amend Section 8-8 Town Clerk: Salary: Assistant Town Clerk (b) to read: "The Town Clerk shall be paid an annual salary which shall be provided for in the annual town budget in the same manner as the salary of other town officials and employees; said salary and such other fringe benefits as town officials and employees may receive. All statutory and other fees shall be remitted monthly to the town treasury."

The Commission discussed the motion.

The motion was amended to remove the line "said salary and such other fringe benefits as town officials and employees may receive. All statutory and other fees shall be remitted monthly to the town treasury." The amended motion passed unanimously.

The hours of the Town Clerk were discussed briefly.

The Commission members also discussed the current Merit System. The Commission would like to obtain more information regarding the Merit System before making any recommendation regarding same.

Board and Commission Composition

Mr. Donovan made a motion to revise the Charter to read that no individual can hold two elected positions concurrently. Ms. Marsden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bergman made a motion that no more than one elected and one appointed position can be held concurrently by one individual. Mr. Donovan seconded the motion.

Vote on the motion: All were opposed to the motion. The motion did not carry.

CHAIRMAN COMMENTS None

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kuever made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Ms. Hidek seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Jo Helchowski
Clerk