

MINUTES
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
June 26, 2018

PRESENT: Chairman Dennis Donovan, Commissioners Eric Bergman, Art Kuever, Lise Gazzillo, Mary Jo Phelps and Michael Hornyak

Absent: Michael Knudsen

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

D. Donovan welcomed everyone

- Discussed the proposed changes to the existing charter (Basic Charter) and the proposed Town Manager form of government charter
- Explained the rules for the public hearing

Open the floor for comments from the public:

J. Allen: Asked if both charter options will be go to the Board of Selectmen and to the November election?

- The Town Manager charter and the 24 proposed changes to the existing charter will be presented to the Board of Selectmen. It is then the decision of the Board of Selectmen how they will be presented at the November election.

S. Patterson: Asked if all 24 proposed changes are included in both charters.

- All 24 proposed changes are in the Basic Charter and some don't pertain to the Town Manager Charter

D. Donovan then read and explained the 24 proposed changes

- A suggestion was made to amend proposed change number 1 to include"hold two "or more" elected positions....

K. Carr: Doesn't State Statute set the number of Board of Finance members?

- State Statute says there have to be at least 6 members but not preclude having more

P. Sengle: (Speaking for himself with his own thoughts): distributed his comments and questions for the commissioners to consider:

- These will be discussed at the Charter Revision Commission's Special Meeting scheduled for June 28th

T. Welch: Questioned if "appropriations not included in the budget" should be included in Section 4-6A1

- This section is clear as written

B. Werner: Pleased with the revised made as it eliminates waste/steps and creates procedures/processes that require less steps

J. Connelly: Pleased with the limitation of offices held and elimination of potential lame duck activity

K. Carr: Disagrees with the elimination of \$35,000 in the bidding process, consider putting a figure of at least \$50,000 to \$75,000

- P. Sengle suggests this figure be increased to \$100,000

Discussed:

- Planning and Zoning Commission hires the Zoning Enforcement Officer
 - Suggested the Board of Selectmen hire the Zoning Enforcement Officer

- Who hires the Police Chief
 - The Police Commissioners put forth their recommendation to the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Selectmen negotiate the Chief's contract
- Who has the authority to hire and who has the authority to do contract negotiations (Board of Selectmen do the negotiations)
- Charter revisions would be on the November 2018 ballot and go into effect in 2019

K. Carr: Distributed graphs and a draft regarding "Municipal Budgeting Reimagined"

L. Santos: Economic parameters need to be studied very carefully prior to changes being made

- The Charter Revision Commission will not be considering any additional large changes to the charter, including any changes to the budget referendum process
- These changes can be researched and considered during the next charter revision process

P. Sengle: Distributed comments and questions regarding the Town Manager Charter

- The Charter Revision Commissioners will discuss these at their Special Meeting on June 28th

M. Neff: Would like language to allow departments to use the state bid

E. Bergman explained the Charter Revision Commission received a request to consider a Representative Town Meeting (RTM) form of government. This should be researched and considered during the next charter revision.

D. Donovan did a brief overview of the Town Manager Charter, explaining how the town would function with this type of government.

- Pointed out key points of the Town Manager Charter

Discussed:

- Should Town Treasurer be appointed, hired or elected
- How the budget process would be handled under this form of government was discussed
- The Town Council will take the place of the Board of Selectmen and would be increased to 7 members (no super majority)
- The possible salary of the Town Manager
 - There will no First Selectman, so those funds will go toward the Town Manager salary
- The Town Manager provides consistency, accountability and professionalism
- The Town Manager would be the CEO of the town
 - Running it like a business with the best interest of the residents in mind
- There would be no Board of Finance in the Town Manager Charter, just the Finance Director
- The Town Manager would not be in charge of the Board of Education
- The Town Manager would have a degree, certifications and important contacts
- Including the Town Council or a least a Town Council representative in the budget process between the Town Manager and Department Heads

D. Fischer: Discussed the benefit of politics

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy McDermott
Clerk

