

Charter Revision Commission

Minutes

May 7, 2012

Town Hall, Flaherty Room

Members present: Gary Freeman, Mark Thompson, Frank Loda, Robert Koskelowski, Sr., Jon Szuch, Melanie Kalako, Thomas Schutte, Jack Liedke, and Christopher Falcioni.

Other people present: Frank Conroy, Lucy McConologue, James Simpson, John Popik, Paul Satkowski, and Sean Walsh.

Item 1. The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Mr. Freeman, at 7:03 p.m.

Item 2. The group stood and recited the *Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag*.

Item 3. Public Comment. Sean Walsh distributed a copy of proposed language for amending Section 10.13. Board of Public Works.

Lucy McConologue announced she had filed with the town clerk an announcement there would be a joint Charter Revision Commission/ Board of Police Commissioners meeting that evening.

Item 4. A motion was made by Mr. Koskelowski and seconded by Mr. Liedke to approve the minutes from the April 2, 2012 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

Item 5. A motion was made by Mr. Koskelowski and seconded by Ms. Kalako to approve the minutes from the April 16, 2012 meeting. The motion carried with only Mr. Liedke abstaining from the vote.

Item 6. Frank Loda requested a legal opinion concerning whether the Special Acts section of Charter prevails over the regular section of the Charter. Mr. Freeman agreed to get clarification for the group by the next meeting.

Mr. Freeman distributed a letter dated May 2, 2012 from town counsel, Mr. Richard Buturla, concerning the employment contract with the police chief. Since the group had just received the letter that evening, the Charter Revision Commission agreed to postpone any discussion concerning the same until its next meeting.

Item 7. The Charter Revision Commission was satisfied that Chapter 4. Organization of Boards and Compensation of Officials did not require any amendments.

The Charter Revision Commission and the Board of Police Commissioners discussed at length the educational requirements for the managerial staff on the police force. The Board of Police Commissioners agreed to provide its recommendations, in writing, in time for the next meeting of the Charter Revision Commission.

Item 9. The Charter Revision Commission agreed to discuss at its next meeting the proposal distributed by Mr. Walsh for amending Section 10.13. Board of Public Works .

Mr. Loda announced his wife was just appointed Chair of the Commission on Aging and he suggested the Charter Revision Commission await input from the aging commission before making any decisions concerning this area of the Charter.

Item 10. A motion was made by Ms. Kalako to place on the agenda that evening the Water Pollution Control Authority. The motion was seconded by Jon Such. The Charter Revision Commission unanimously approved the motion. The Charter Revision Commission discussed the idea making the WPCA an elected entity with two year terms instead of the current appointed positions on the Authority. The Charter Revision Commission also discussed the notion of having the Board of Finance approve annually the WPCA budget.

Item 11. A motion was made by Ms. Kalako to place on the agenda that evening the Planning and Zoning Commission. The motion was seconded by Jon Szuch. The Charter Revision Commission unanimously approved the motion. The Charter Revision Commission discussed the possibility of making the Planning and Zoning Commissioners elected officials with two year terms as oppose to administrative appointments by the First Selectman.

Item 12. Messer's Koskelowski and Thompson expressed sentiments that too few decisions were being made by Charter Revision Commission and the group seemed to be moving at a slow pace. In addition to those areas already studied by the Charter Revision Commission, Mr. Koskelowski would like to have a discussion concerning the annual town meeting and budget adoption process. Mr. Thompson again advocated asking all the boards, commissions, and authorities throughout town submit, in advance, recommendations for revising their respective areas of the Charter. The Charter Revision Commission could then take the recommendations under advisement and make a final decision. Mr. Thompson also proposed, where applicable, having the boards and commissions provide input to the annual performance evaluation of department heads.

Item 13. Public Comment. Paul Satkowski shared his opinion having a baccalaureate degree in an appropriate field and/or graduation from the FBI Academy was not an unreasonable requirement for the position of police lieutenant and higher.

In response to a question from Mr. Thompson, Mr. Freeman indicated that the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities was not going to meet with the Charter Revision Commission and present an overview of the different forms of municipal government. Mr. Thompson said he had confirmed with the First Selectman that he suggested during the Charter Revision Commission's organizational meeting the possibility of studying other forms for local government. Mr. Freeman said this could be a recommendation for the next Charter Revision Commission.

Item 14. Adjournment. A motion was made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Szuch to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Thompson, Secretary