

Minutes  
Charter Revision Commission  
Monday, April 16, 2012  
Town Hall, Flaherty Room

Members Present: Frank Loda, Robert Koskelowski Sr., Mark Thompson, Jon Szuch, Gary Freeman, Chris Falcioni, Melanie Kalako, Tom Schutte

Others Present: Sean Walsh, John Popik, James Simpson, Lucy McConologue, Paul Satkowski

**Item 1- Call to Order**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

**Item 2-Pledge of Allegiance**

Everyone stood to salute the flag and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Item 3- Public Comment**

Sean Walsh-Suggested the Board of Public Works is changed to be similar as the Board of Police Commissioners within the charter. Mr. Walsh agreed to provide the Charter Revision Commission with the precise wording of his suggestions.

John Popik- Talked about the educational requirements for police department. Rather than mandate advanced education degrees for the top management positions, Mr. Popik advocated that prospective candidates possess specific minimum lengths of service with certain job experiences. He also believes passage of polygraph and psychological tests should be an essential part of the qualification process. The South Central Criminal Justice Administration or a similar third party group should be retained to screen candidates for top management positions at the Seymour Police Department.

Paul Satkowski- Believes educational minimums should be a requirement for the Seymour police force, but the standards should not be set so high that it would preclude candidates that have extensive experience. Mr. Satkowski also agrees with the previous statements from Mr. Popik with including a third party agency in hiring process for the Board of Police Commissioners.

Lucy McConologue-The Board of Police Commissioners should be invited to meet with the Charter Revision Commission. Mrs. McConologue agreed with Mr. Satkowski and Mr. Popik with regards to the educational and job experience requirements for the lead management positions within the police department.

James Simpson-The document wording he drafted for the Charter was a proposal, and recognized the Charter Revision Commission would have the final say with regards to establishing any changes to the police department or the Police Board of Commissioners. Mr. Simpson expressed his belief in creating a better police department would be critical to improving the town and subsequently enhancing the appeal of the entire Valley.

#### **Item-Acceptance of Minutes from February 23, 2012**

Motion: Mr. Thompson Second: Mr. Falcioni

Vote: Yes-8, No-0, Abstain-0

#### **Item5-Acceptance of Minutes from April 2, 2012**

Mr. Loda requested the acceptance of minutes from April 2, 2012 be tabled until the following meeting.

Motion: Mr. Loda Second: Ms. Kalako

Yes-7, No-0, Abstain-1 (Tom Schutte)

#### **Discussion of Minutes from March 19, 2012**

Mr. Loda requested the minutes be amended to read Public Hearing instead of Public Meeting.

Motion: Mr. Loda Second: Mr. Koskelowski

Yes-7, No-0, Abstain-1 (Mark Thompson)

#### **Item6-Old Business**

Mr. Freeman requested CCM come to a future meeting and discuss Charter related issues and answer questions from the Commissioners.

Mr. Koskelowski preferred the group focused on more pressing issues such as the police and public work departments. He felt that focusing on the styles and types of governments would not be beneficial for the current Charter Revision Committee.

Mr. Thompson was under the impression from the last meeting the commission would review the different forms of municipal governments that are options for the group to consider.

Mr. Loda stated recommendations could be made by the current Charter Revision Commission but felt the next appointed Charter Revision Commission should carefully study the issue.

Mrs. Kalako would like to address those issues already present in the charter before deciding which form of municipal government may be best for the town.

Mr. Szuch wants the next Charter Revision Commission to decide which form of municipal government may be best for the Town of Seymour.

#### **Item 7- New Business/ Chapter 8A. Board of Police Commissioners**

Mr. Loda believes Special Acts Sec. 17 contradicts itself. He suggested Town Council review this section and make recommendations to the Charter Revision Commission.

Mr. Loda next recommended the charter be changed to remove the clause that exempts the current the Chief of Police from signing an employment contract. Recognizing there could be issues involved with this proposal, Mr. Loda again suggested a legal opinion be obtained. Mr. Koskelowski also would like Town Council to review this matter and provide an opinion as to the type of language that would be needed in the charter to have the current Police Chief sign a contract.

Mr. Szuch asked if there was a job description for the Police Chief. Mr. Szuch believes if the Police Chief signs a contract there must be a job description as well. If there is an eventual contract negotiation for the Police Chief, the new Director of Human Resources, if the position is funded, should be involved in this process.

**Recessed:8:47pm**

Motion: Ms. Kalako Second: Mr. Loda

**Called to order: 8:53pm**

Mr. Koskelowski suggested one more management position be added to the police department, and the position could be filled from within the department. He also stated the person who fills the position could eventually advance to chief. Mr. Koskelowski also believes there should be additional incentives for current officers to further their education, which should include the FBI education program.

Ms. Kalako prefers a strong consideration for candidates with Masters Degrees be written in the Charter. Along with other forms of self-improvement, formal education should be weighed accordingly with what each candidate has to offer. Mrs. Kalako would like the requirement for a background check to remain in place for each prospective candidate on the police force.

Mr. Loda would prefer the language for the length police chief's contract to read up to 3 years.

Mr. Thompson suggested removal of the language that states if three personnel from the Seymour Police Department apply for the position of lieutenant, the Police Commission may not solicit applications outside the Department.

Mr. Freeman would like to change any references to police science to read criminal justice with a focus in criminal investigation, criminal forensics, and/or law enforcement administration.

Mr. Loda recommended rewording the reference to all drug seizure expenditures shall be approved by the Board of Police Commissioners. He also suggested the portion of the Charter that recognizes the Board of Police Commissioners as having the jurisdiction over the parking of all vehicles upon all municipal streets and parking lots and all vehicular traffic throughout town needs to be strengthened and clarified.

**Item8-Public Comment**

Sean Walsh- Noted he was the one who originally mentioned the town manger style of government during the first Charter Revision Commission meeting, and town manger should be considered for Seymour.

**Item9- Adjournment**

Motion: Mr. Loda      Second: Ms. Kalako

Vote: Yes-8, No-0, Abstain-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul Thompson  
Recording Secretary