

Minutes
Charter Revision Commission
Public Meeting
Monday April 2, 2012
Town Hall, Flaherty Room

Charter Revision Commission
4/02/2012

Members Present: Frank Loda, Robert Koskelowski Sr., Mark Thompson, Jon Szuch, Gary Freeman,
Melanie Kalako, Chris Falcioni, Jack Liedke
Others Present: Sean Walsh, Bonnie Wilkes, Harry Marks, Joan Gee

Item# 1- Called meeting to order 7:03 PM

Item#2- Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone saluted the Flag and stated the Pledge of Allegiance

Item#3-Public Comment.

Jim Simpson- The Captain of the Seymour Police Department should have a master degree, and Mr. Simpson has a strong opinion that law enforcement should have advance degrees in their field of expertise. He would be able to give a proposal or draft for what Seymour PD should have and when these goals should be reached. He also believes and would be able to draft a working job description to help hire and gage employees.

Sean Walsh- The Public Works Board would like the Charter Revision Committee to wait before making any decisions regarding . Mr. Walsh submitted recommendations for Section 10-13, and would like the Charter Revision to consider communicating with the Public Works Board. Delivered a hard copy of recommendation

Joan Gee- The current charter only allows the Aging Commission to only review and study the needs of the aging, and then make recommendations. There is nothing in the charter to give the Aging Commission any power to help the elderly. The charter should give enough for the Aging Commission to advocate for the elderly, as well as, have no political appointment or political affiliation which is detrimental to the commission. Mrs. Gee also believes the Charter Committee should look at every department to help streamline their services. Mrs. Gee delivered a hard copy of her recommendations.

Item#4- Acceptance of minutes from March 19, 2012 Public Hearing

Mark Thompson: noted that minutes were not accepted February 23, 2012

Gary Freeman: accepting the minutes from February 23, 2012 will be done next meeting April 16, 2012

Frank Loda: The minutes going into the future should have a little more detail.

Motion:Melanie Kalako Second:Mark Thompson

Vote:8 Yes (All) NO-0 Abstain-0

Item#5 Appointed Secretary

Mark Thompson was nominated

Motion: Melanie Kalako Second: Frank Loda

Yes-8 (All) No-0 Abstain-0

Item#6 Old Business

Mark Thompson: He reiterated his idea that town council attend a meeting and explain the Charter, and be available to answer any questions.

Frank Loda: would like town council to come at a later date after a number a questions are gathered; to make it easier for everyone and not have town council at every meeting.

Gary Freeman: Stated that the Charter Commission members agreed that they will go through chapter by chapter and make changes as needed.

Robert Koskelowski Sr.: Stated that more Chapters should be added to the agenda and if unable to complete the review of any chapter tabled it for the following meeting.

Melanie Kalako: would prefer if the group looked at the charter in broader scope before getting into the details.

Mark Thompson: agrees to view the charter more broadly then focus in on the details.

Frank Loda: would like review the possibility returning town manger style of government.

Robert Koskelowski Sr.: There are pros and cons to town manger style of government, maybe a 4 year election for first selectman is a better style. As well as town meetings and elected vs. appointed boards should all be looked at.

Frank Loda: Passed out material, comparing different styles of governments

Jon Szuch: Would like to see an HR Director be address in the charter.

Mark Thompson: Would like to see the advantages and disadvantages to every style of government (4 styles are allowed in Connecticut)

Frank Loda: Prefers if the First Selectman and different resources like CCM and COST could come to a meeting and answer questions.

Robert Koskelowski Sr.: Issues to resolve should be sections already in the charter his example was Public Works Board, and in May then figure out the style of government.

Item#7 New Business:

Chapter 1:

There will be no changes.

Chapter 2:

Robert Koskelowski Sr.: The Board of Police Commission should go back to appointed, and the library board should go to 7 members instead of 9. Planning and Zoning should be elected with 5 members and 3 alter. WPC should be elected with 5 members with the potential of an alter. position(s).

Melanie Kalako: Can you be elected to multiple boards at the same time? That comes up in another section and will be discuss then. She also disagrees with the idea of a Police Commission being appointed.

Mark Thompson: Believes that the police commission should stay elected.

Jon Szuch: Is 50/50 on the Police Commission believing what is best for the town should be followed

Gary Freeman: Elected gives more accountability to the position.

Chris Falcioni: He is undecided as well and will wait for further information to make a decision.

The group agrees with having Planning & Zoning being elected as well as WPC.

Robert Koskelowski Sr.: The justice of the peace should be also considered, the make political make of the twenty positions needs to be reexamined. This will provided better clarity for the charter.

The group agrees with the Library Board will stay the same at the time being.

Section 2.1 B

Regarding the "Board of Tax Review (3)" will need to change to "Board of Assessment Appeals (3)"

Chapter3

Section3

Frank Loda: The Registrar of Voters should review this section and should come back with recommendations.

Section 3.4

The First Selectman or Selectmen should be changed from 45 days because that has the potential to go up to 90 with a special election. It should be changed to 14 days, and this would make things easier for the Deputy Selectman and the new First Selectman.

Section 3.7

Melanie Kalako: There should be a changed in when the First Selectman assumes office, possible 30 days after the election.

Mark Thompson: If appointed to a board or commission there should be clarification to when it begins and expires.

Section 3.4 H

Frank Loda: There should be a need for an approval of resignation, and then there should be an effective date for such resignation for such board or commission.

Mark Thompson: the Chairman "and" secretary should be notified of any resignation from the board or commission they are serving.

Robert Koskelowski Sr.: Should change section so that the First Selectman should receive a copy of the resignation letter then chairman of the board.

Frank Loda: Would like the group to considered term limits.

Robert Koskelowski Sr.: The town should not have any term limits.

All agreed

Item#9-Public Comment

Sean Walsh: There should be staggered terms when possible in section 10.2, and the town is not following this part. The Public Works Board should be staggered which it is not currently.

Mark Thompson: Agreed with these statements.

Gary Freeman: Next meeting will be discussing the Police Commission and then possible Public Works.

Item#9-Adjournment

Motion: Mark Thompson Second: Melanie Kalako

Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain

Meeting adjourned at 9:42PM.