

# MINUTES

Charter Revision Commission Meeting  
Wednesday, July 16, 2008 @ 7:00 PM  
Norma Drummer Room/Seymour Town Hall

Members present: Chairman Trisha Danka, Bruce Baker, Sam Mirlis, Al Ermer, Michael Julian, Gene Stec, and Special Counsel Richard Bruchal.

Members not present: Deirdre Caruso

Others present: Frank Loda, Peter Jezierny, Jim Simpson

- Meeting was opened by the Chairman at 7:00PM.

ITEM # 1 - Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone salutes the Flag and states the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to rescind the motion to cancel the 7/16/08 meeting contained in the minutes of the 7/2/08 regular meeting.

Motion: Bruce Baker                      Second: Gene Stec  
Vote: 6-Yes                      0-No                      0-Abstain                      0-Disqualify

ITEM # 2 - Approve minutes from 7/2/08 public hearing.

Motion to approve minutes from the 7/2/08 public hearing with the exception of the motion to cancel the 7/16/08 regular meeting.

Motion: Bruce Baker                      Second: Gene Stec

Motion to rescind the above motion to approve minutes from the 7/2/08 public hearing with the exception of the motion to cancel the 7/16/08 regular meeting.

Motion: Bruce Baker                      Second: Gene Stec  
Vote: 6-Yes                      0-No                      0-Abstain                      0-Disqualify

Motion to approve minutes from the 7/2/08 public hearing.

Motion: Bruce Baker                      Second: Michael Julian  
Vote: 6-Yes                      0-No                      0-Abstain                      0-Disqualify

ITEM # 3 - Approve minutes from 7/2/08 meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from the 7/2/08 regular meeting with the exception of the motion to cancel the 7/16/08 regular meeting.

Motion: Bruce Baker                      Second: Gene Stec  
Vote: 6-Yes                      0-No                      0-Abstain                      0-Disqualify

ITEM # 4 - Discussion and comments with Board of Finance.

Two members of the Board of Finance have come to the meeting. Also enclosed in the packet are emails from two other Board of Finance members that could not attend the meeting.

Peter Jeziorny, 93 Walnut Street, Board of Finance: Discusses personal experience with the budget process when using No-too low and No-too high and feels that it does not help. He would like to see the option changed back to "Yes" or "No" and would consider having public hearings between votes if the time requirements are met. He does feel that the original change was made with good intentions to give more people a voice, but it did not work for the Board.

James Simpson, 4 Falbo Drive, Board of Finance: Does want to know what the voters want and feels that an advisory question on the bottom of the ballot would possibly help. He also would like the option changed back to "Yes" or "No" and is in favor of more public meetings between referendums.

Trisha Danka: Concerned about the advisory question and that it is the same as the current situation and wonders how it would be counted. Only a certain percentage of people will even answer it so it would not show the true outcome. She is also concerned that having a public hearing would not allow the Board of Finance to meet deadlines and she would like to advertise the workshops more and invite the public to make public comment at those meetings. She also feels that it is hard to get people to come to the public hearings and town meetings.

Other members state that it is important to get public input and feedback and possibly the town can set up an email address for the Board of Finance.

#### ITEM # 5 - Correspondence.

Enclosed in the packet are, a letter to the Charter Revision Commission from Attorney Bruchal concerning the Section in the Charter that needs to be amended, the Draft Report to the Board of Selectmen from the Charter Revision Commission concerning the proposed amendments, and a copy of the public notice for the next public hearing, which will be on July 30, 2008.

#### ITEM # 6 - Commission discussion.

Gene Stec: In favor of changing option to "Yes or No" and feels that the advisory question would only cause more confusion. Is also in favor of having public comment at the budget workshops.

Michael Julian: Is in favor of changing option back to "Yes or No" and feels that the Town should set up an email account for the Board of Finance.

Al Ermer: Is in favor of changing the option back to "Yes or No" and would like public meetings in between budget votes and is in favor of an advisory question on the ballot asking what the public feels about the budgets.

Sam Mirlis: Is in favor of changing the voting option back to "Yes or No" and feels that it is difficult to get people to attend meetings and agrees with a questionnaire or survey question only for information purposes.

Bruce Baker: Is also in favor of changing the voting option back to "Yes or No" and feels that only a percentage of people will fill out the advisory question and he thinks that the Board of Finance should just use their wisdom to make informative decisions on how the budget should go.

Trisha Danka: Agrees that it should be up to the Board of Finance and agrees that they need better ways to communicate to the public to come to the budget workshops. Also agrees that an email address for the Board of Finance is a good idea.

Motion to add "Take Action" to the Agenda to submit recommendations from the Charter Revision Commission to the Board of Selectmen.

Motion: Bruce Baker                      Second: Gene Stec  
Vote: 6-Yes                      0-No                      0-Abstain                      0-Disqualify

Motion to recommend that the language in section 12.3 Annual Town Meeting (CHT:24, Column 2, Paragraph 4) shall be amended as follows, to add: The voters shall be given the option to vote either "Yes" or "No" and to delete: No-too high or No-too low, all No votes shall be added together as one total in order to determine passage or rejection of a budget.

Motion: Bruce Baker                      Second: Michael Julian  
Vote: 6-Yes                      0-No                      0-Abstain                      0-Disqualify

Motion to adopt the Draft Report to the Board of Selectmen from the Charter Revision Commission.

Motion: Bruce Baker                      Second: Al Ermer  
Vote: 6-Yes                      0-No                      0-Abstain                      0-Disqualify

Motion to change the time of the next regular scheduled meeting to 7:30 PM on Wednesday, July 30, 2008 due to public hearing being scheduled the same night.

Motion: Al Ermer                      Second: Michael Julian  
Vote: 6-Yes                      0-No                      0-Abstain                      0-Disqualify

Motion to set public hearing for 7:00PM on Wednesday, July 30, 2008 in the Norma Drummer Room, Seymour Town Hall.

Motion: Bruce Baker                      Second: Sam Mirlis  
Vote: 6-Yes                      0-No                      0-Abstain                      0-Disqualify

ITEM # 7 - Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 7:55 PM.

Motion: Bruce Baker                      Second: Al Ermer  
Vote: 6-Yes                      0-No                      0-Abstain                      0-Disqualify

Respectfully submitted by,

Deirdre Caruso,  
Secretary