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## Town of Seymour

### CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

1 FIRST STREET, SEYMOUR, CONNECTICUT

Minutes of Public Hearing  
Tuesday, September 27, 2017  
7:00 P.M.

Norma Drummer Room, Seymour Town Hall

**Charter Revision Commission Members Present:** Bob Findley, Rhonda Geffert, Sandra Gesek, Ed Hendricks, Pat Lombardi (Chair), Jen Magri, Bill Sawicki, Robert VanEgghen (Vice Chair).

**Members Absent:** Colleen Fries

**Others Present and Participating:** Attorney Bryan LeClerc (representing Town Counsel Berchem, Moses & Devlin, PC).

**ITEM #1:** Call meeting to order.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Pat Lombardi at 7:02 PM. He reported that CRC member Ed Hendricks would serve as Secretary Pro Tem for the meeting.

**ITEM #2:** Pledge to the Flag.

Everyone salutes the flag and states the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ITEM #3:** Public Comments.

Chairman Pat Lombardi called for comments concerning the Town Charter and the work of the Charter Revision Commission from the members of the public. He asked those wishing to speak to state their name and address for the record.

Karen Stanek 22 North Benham Road, Seymour CT

-- Ms. Stanek expressed concern about the lack of economic development in the Town and that she believes that there has been a lack of accomplishments and accountability in the Office of Economic Development. When CRC member Rob VanEgghen asked Ms. Stanek if she had specific suggestions, she stated that she believes there should be more accountability and reports from, as well as a clearer job description and measurable goals established, for the position of Economic Development Director. Pat Lombardi asked Ms. Stanek if she had any written materials to submit to the CRC. She replied that she did not, however, she the CRC might wish to review a videotape of Item #7 of the Board of Selectmen meeting of July 18, 2017 during which she presented her concerns about the Economic Development Office and Director.

-- Ms. Stanek suggested the CRC be open to reviewing all aspects of the Charter and identify any weaknesses with regard to job descriptions, measurable goals, and performance evaluations for Town departments and department heads. The CRC thanked Ms. Stanek for her comments.

Fred Stanek 22 North Benham Road, Seymour CT

-- Mr. Stanek asked the CRC to consider revising the Town Charter to permit the budget of the Board of Education and the Town budget to be co-mingled. He said he believed this would benefit the voters by

having them vote only one time regarding the budget. Having no further comments at this time, the CRC thanked Mr. Stanek for his time and suggestions.

Stephan Behuniak 36 Birdwood Rd Seymour CT

--Mr. Behuniak stated that he was speaking as a private citizen and not as a member of the Board of Selectmen, and that he had a number of suggestions for the CRC to consider. He said he supported Ms. Stanek's comments concerning the need for enhanced economic development within the town. He also endorsed Mr. Stanek's suggestion to combine the Town and Board of Education budgets. He stated that he would like the CRC to determine if more activities and programs of the Town might be combined.

-- Mr. Behuniak then asked that the CRC recommend term limits on the tenure of the First Selectman and on the members of the Board of Selectmen. He suggested a maximum of 2 to 5 consecutive terms for elected officials depending on the term of their election.

-- Mr. Behuniak then asked the CRC to consider changing the term of office for the First Selectman and other Selectman from the present 2 years to 4 years. He said that this would provide more time for these officials to learn the requirements of the job prior to running for reelection as well as allowing them to develop and work on longer range plans for the Town. The CRC thanked Mr. Behuniak for his comments.

Kurt Miller 18 Swan Avenue, Seymour CT

-- Mr. Miller stated that he was speaking as a private citizen and not as First Selectman. He said he agreed with Ms. Stanek that the Board of Education and Town budgets can be brought together. He noted that having separate budgets can result in unnecessary competition for funds rather than collaboration especially in such areas as technology acquisition.

-- Mr. Miller said he has mixed feelings about term limits for elected officials. He noted, however, that without limits on the number of terms officials can serve might result in some officials becoming complacent or stagnant or they may come to see their position as being a lifetime job. He suggested the CRC consider proposing a 4 year term with a limit of two consecutive terms for not only the First Selectman and members of the Board of Selectman, but for the chairs and members of all Town boards, committees and commissions.

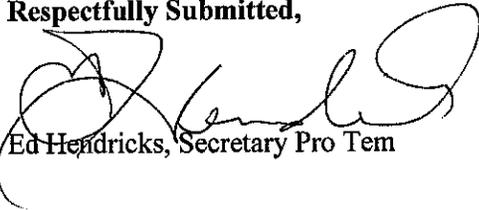
-- Mr. Miller commented that he is in favor of more accountability as well as performance pay for Town employees. He noted, however, that many workers are covered by contracts that might limit some actions.

-- Mr. Miller also said he is in favor of reducing the number of members of elected and appointed boards, committees and commissions from the present 9 to 7, or from the present 7 to 5. He noted that it has become difficult to find new volunteers to serve in these roles. The Chairman thanked Mr. Miller for his comments.

**ITEM #4: Close of Public Hearing**

The Chairman asked if there were any further comments from the public. There being none, the Chairman closed the Public Hearing at 7:35pm.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

  
Ed Hendricks, Secretary Pro Tem