

MINUTES
Special Joint Meeting of
Board of Selectmen & Charter Revision Commission
Tuesday, August 21, 2018 – 7:30 PM
Norma Drummer Room – Seymour Town Hall

Members present: W. Kurt Miller, Annmarie Drugonis, Al Bruno, Stephan Behuniak and Trisha Danka

Members not present: Karen Stanek.

Others present: Town Counsel, Ryan Driscoll; Patrick Lombardi, Ed Hendricks, Bill Sawicki, Richard Demko, Robert VanEggen, Sandra Gesek and Rhonda Geffert.

ITEM #1: Call meeting to order.

Meeting was called to order by First Selectman, W. Kurt Miller, on behalf of the Chairman of the Charter Revision Commission, at 8:26 P.M.

ITEM #2: Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone saluted the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #3: BOS & CRC to confer regarding the recommendations of the Board of Selectmen to the Charter Revision Commission.

Kurt stated the Board of Selectmen agrees with the following:

- Elimination of Town Meeting
- Discussion on term limits for First Selectmen and Board of Selectmen
- Increase Special Town Meeting spending threshold limit from \$50,000 to \$100,000
- Discussion on Quorum of Town Meeting
- Removal of positions of captain and lieutenant from Police Department
- Discussion of removal of prohibition of First Selectman holding multiple positions
- Elimination of requirement of full text of ordinance publication
- Removal of Board of Selectmen secretary
- Should be advisory question *"Shall the Board of Selectmen undertake a study regarding the establishment of A Town Manager form of government?"*

The recommended ballot questions put forward that the Board of Selectmen are in agreement with are as follows:

- Question #
 2. Shall the Town Charter be amended to replace the elected Board of Planning and Zoning with an appointed Planning and Zoning Commission?
 3. Shall the Town Charter be amended to increase the term of the First Selectman from two to four years?
 4. Shall the Town Charter be amended to set term limits for the First Selectman and Board of Selectmen?

6. Shall the Town Charter be amended to correct grammar, spelling, terminology, statutory references, outdated provisions of the Town Charter, renumber sections, and make other and technical changes as recommended by the Charter Revision Commission?

The Board of Selectmen have comments and inquiries regarding the following questions:

1. Shall the Town Charter be amended to change the following: **(1)** specify the method of appointment of Deputy Registrar of Voters, **(All Agree)**; **(2)** reduce the size of the Board of Library Directors from seven to five, **(All Agree)**; **(3)** allow Selectmen to participate in meetings via videoconference or teleconference, **(Discussion below)**; **(4)** provide for legal notices to be posted on the Town website, **(All Agree)**; **(5)** elimination of the positions of Captain and Lieutenant in the Police Department, **(All Agree)** and **(6)** increase the amount of special appropriation requiring a Town Meeting to \$100,000.? **(All Agree)**

Section (3) of Question #1: allow Selectmen to participate in meetings via videoconference or teleconference, discussion:

Ed Hendricks (of Charter Revision Commission) stated it was the Commission's understanding that as long as both parties can interact with one another and can hear all questions and answers from all parties, it has been judged to be acceptable. Pat said they had Brian LeClerc look at it and he did not indicate that there were any statutes prohibiting that. Rhonda Geffert (of Charter Revision Commission) stated they felt that more people would be willing to participate on boards because it gives more opportunity for people to travel and be a part of a board.

Trisha left at 8:29pm and returned at 8:31 P.M.

Kurt suggested possibly putting restrictions on that or adding some rules. Stephan suggested possibly putting restrictions on number of people in the meeting on video.

They discussed this at length.

The Board of Selectmen asked the Charter Revision Commission and Town Counsel to prepare recommended language for the Ballot and possible rules.

5. Shall the Town Charter be amended to change the budget process, including the elimination of the Annual Town Meeting so that the budget will go directly to referendum, and to combine the Town and Board of Education vote at the referendum?

The Board of Selectmen recommended splitting this question to make two individual questions.

Discussion ensued about the pros and cons of combining the Town and Board of Education budgets.

The Board of Selectmen discussed and/or acted on the following at their regular meeting:

- Section 11.2 – *Eligibility* - add the First Selectman's Administrative Assistant.
- Section 6.1 – *Board of Selectmen - Composition and general powers and duties*. "Commencing with the election November 2020." - should be November 2019.
- Section 12.11 - *Board of Public Works* – remove "sanitary landfill."

The board asked for clarification as to why the Parks Commission/Recreation Commission and Commission on Aging/Livable Communities were not combined.

Pat Lombardi stated that the Commission talked to all of the members of the boards and discussed their needs and duties. Pat spoke with Mary McNelis about the 4 boards and the consensus was that they didn't feel that it would work to combine. Bill Sawicki (of Charter Revision Commission) discussed the reasoning behind keeping the Parks and Recreation Commissions separate. Pat read a letter from

Bonnie Wilkes regarding her opinion on not combining the Commission on Aging and the Livable Communities Committee. He discussed not taking Culture & Arts Commission out of the Charter.

The Board of Selectmen suggested looking into it again because the Culture & Arts Commission is also in the Ordinances and it doesn't make sense to have them in 2 places.

Pat discussed how the Commission took "prohibition of the First Selectman holding another elective office" as very broad.

Stephan asked why they recommended just the Board Library Directors go down to 5 people.

Ed Hendricks stated that in meeting with each board and commission, they asked them what they felt they needed. The Chairman's were in favor of keeping same amount of people. Discussion continued regarding this.

They briefly discussed the term limits for the Board of Selectmen. They also discussed the change in number of years for the contract for the Chief of Police. It was a 3-year contract and they are recommending changing it to a 5-year contract. Bill Sawicki explained why.

Stephan asked why in Section 3.4 *Vacancies in elected offices (e)* – "... until a successor is duly elected at the next regular election and is qualified. The persons then elected to fill the unexpired term shall serve the remainder of the term" is crossed out." He asked if they were trying to do away with staggered boards.

Kurt stated there were issues with some boards where some were 4 or 2 year boards.

Al left the room at 9:32 P.M. and returned at 9:34 P.M.

The Charter Revision Commission will meet at a Special Meeting tomorrow.

ITEM #4: Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn at 9:35 P.M.

Motion: Annmarie Drugonis

Vote: 5-Yes 0-No

W. Kurt Miller – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Second: Al Bruno

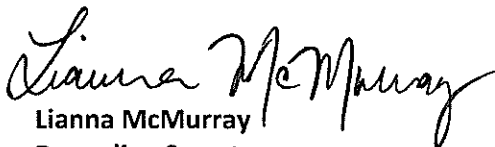
0-Abstain

Al Bruno – Yes


Stephan Behuniak - Yes

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Submitted by,


Lianna McMurray
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,


W. Kurt Miller
First Selectman