

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING

APRIL 22, 2010

MINUTES

A Public Hearing of the Charter Revision Commission was held on Thursday, April 22, 2010, at the Trumbull Town Hall in the Council Chambers.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 P.M.

In attendance at the meeting: Commission members: John P. Chiota, Esq. Chairman; William S. Holden, Vice Chairman; Gail J. Hanna, Secretary; Daniel F. Schopick, Esq. and Paul Timpanelli.

Absent from the meeting: Russell Friedson

John P. Chiota, Esq. opened the meeting with the introduction of the committee members and provided information regarding the website for The Charter Revision Website. John Chiota also made reference to an e-mail addressed to Timothy M. Herbst, The First Selectman, from John L. Ponzio, Treasurer, with respect to suggested revisions to the charter.

Mrs. Rose Marie D'Aquila of 29 Valley View Road, Trumbull, CT, in the absence of Mr. Anthony D'Aquila of 29 Valley View Road, Trumbull, CT, presented a memorandum to the committee suggesting revisions to the Charter. Copies of this memorandum can be obtained in the Trumbull Town Clerk's Office.

The First Selectman, Timothy M. Herbst, welcomed all in attendance. Mr. Herbst presented to the Commission his recommended revisions to the Charter beginning with Chapter I through to the end at Chapter IX.

- Chapter I - No recommendations
- Chapter II (Section 8) - Change publication of legislation and carry throughout the Charter to allow for web posting.
- Chapter III -
 - Top 3 officers should be changed from 2 years to 4 years. This will allow for more continuity.
 - Examine line of succession concerning with the appointment positions. Should be elected by voters and live in Trumbull, CT.

-Establish an emergency operation. In circumstances of the absence of the First Selectman – immediate 3.

Chapter III (Section 6, C)
appointment

- The Tax Collector and the Tax Assessor serve at the
by The First Selectman.

Page 2 of 4

Chapter III (Section 6, G)
must be
once.

- Bid waivers are vague. The town needs to establish a
comprehensive purchasing policy. The bid waiver process
tightened so that the same vendor is not allowed more than

Chapter III (Section 8)
years.

- The Town Attorney term should be changed for 3 years to 5

Chapter III (Section 12, B)
and

- To reduce the cost, examine the consolidation of Public Works
Board of Education.

Chapter III (Section 13)
if

- The statute requirements are absent. Examine if this is needed,
not, eliminate.
-Possibly the reorganization of the Economic Development
Commission. The Director of the Economic Development
Commission can be combined to reorganize but not to add.

Chapter IV
the
year

- Adopting the budget. Citizens should have the right to vote on
budget. Consider a referendum where allowed in cases of a
proposed increase would exceed a certain percent over prior
and/or the current rate of inflation.

Chapter V

- No recommendations

Chapter VI
issue
dollar
scenario

- Bonding issues and language. Proposed referendum if bond
or project exceeds 10% of outstanding debt or a specified
amount of approximately \$10-\$20 million. Examine this
and develop a formula for large capital projects.

Chapter VII
all of

- Boards and Commissions. Examine whether Trumbull needs the current boards and commissions. Also, examine the membership numbers for each of the boards and commissions and the minority rep. and terms.

Board of Education – The intent of the charter revision is the composition of the Board of Education.

Inlands and Wetlands Commission – Conservation Commission and the Inlands and Wetlands Commission consolidated as to sit under the Inlands and Wetlands Commission and also Planning and Zoning Commission sit on Inlands and Wetlands Commission.

Personnel Appeals Board – examine the need.

Trumbull Board of Health – under Trumbull and Monroe ordinance.

Parks Commission and Recreation Commission to be combined.

This will resolve any field issues. It will also be more efficient and with minimal duplication.

Page 3 of 4

Water Pollution Control Authority. Should be confirmed by the Town Council.

Civil Service Board. Antiquated. Possibly this board should be under Human Resources.

Youth Commission. Commission can be combined under Parks and Receptions Commission.

Chapter VIII

- Electoral Process – length of term for elected officials to 4 years.
Raise minimum to \$500,000 for a referendum for Section A 1 a and also Section B 6.

Section 8 – To accept the initiative, the criteria should be 12% of those who voted in the last election vs. 12% of those entitled to vote.

Timothy Herbst offered a copy of the e-mail from John Ponzio to any of the public present (a copy of which can be obtained in the Town Clerk's Office).

Any questions/recommendations were then accepted from the public:

Carl Massaro, 61 Wedgewood Road, Trumbull, CT:

- All notices of meetings should be available on the Trumbull's website. Condensing and eliminating paper would result in cost reductions to the Town. Paul Timpanelli questioned Carl Massaro as to the approximate cost savings concerned that not everyone has access to the website and the publications of notices would still be needed in the newspaper.
- Look at State Statute regarding required members and alternates (appointed – not elected).
- Town Council – Why is it procedural that if there are “3” names on the ballot, why can only “2” candidates be voted for.

Arthur J. Mikucki, 85 Canterbury Lane, Trumbull, CT:

- Expenditures of High School of \$73 million (too much). Tax payers should be able to have the final say as several are tied to cost of living.

Jean Rabinow, 17 Fairview Avenue, Trumbull, CT:

- The Charter Revision Commission needs to look at the Town Council votes of “3” candidates on the ballot but can only vote for “2”.
- Mrs. Rabinow made reference to 9176.a *minimum number of votes not limited*. Reference to Chapter II, Section 2, different in each district due to population.
- Check language of Chapter VII, Section 3 a.
- Bonding proposal supplement is over limit.
- Objected to a referendum; it would be too costly; elected must make decisions; representative democracy.

Page 4 of 4

Ian McMillan, 17 Fairview Avenue, Trumbull, CT:

- Add a new sub-section to Section II (Board of Assessment Appeals) of Chapter VII (Boards and Commissions):

C.Alternate Members. At the written request of the Board of Assessment Appeals or its clerk and for good cause shown, the First Selectman may appoint one to three eligible electors of the Town to serve as alternate members of the Board during the pending spring or fall term of the Board; either generally or only to hear and to decide one or more specific petitions during said term.

Marilyn Lord, 62 Driftwood Lane, Trumbull, CT;

- Concerned that the public could have been better informed of this public hearing. All notices of meetings need to be published not only on the computer but also newspapers.
- Duplicated Mrs. Rabinow's objecting to a costly referendum. Should be represented by her representative.

Bill Crooks (member of the Board of Finance) representing himself as individual taxpayer:

- There needs to be a dollar limit for bonding resolutions.
- Control of supplemental appropriations prior to July 1 as opposed to after July 1.
- Audit Reports/Financial Reports should be directed to the Board of Finance and Operational Reports should be sent to both the Town Council and the Board of Finance.

Edward Walsh, Trumbull Town Attorney:

- Charter should reflect Electronic Notifications.

John Chiota indicated that the Charter Revision Commission will meet the first Wednesday of every month. At this time, the following Charter Revision Commission meeting dates are scheduled as follows:

May 5, 2010, 7:30PM, Trumbull Town Hall, Council Chambers

June 2, 2010, 7:30PM, Trumbull Town Hall, Council Chambers

July 7, 2010, 7:30PM, Trumbull Town Hall, Council Chambers

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

Marilou Mangiamele, Clerk