

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 30, 2011

In attendance at the meeting: Commission Members: John P. Chiota, Esq. Chairman; William Holden, Vice Chairman; Gail J. Hanna, Secretary; James Cordone, Esq.; Russell Friedson.

Commission members not in attendance: Paul Timpanelli

Non-commission members in attendance: Attorney Robert Maslan

Meeting Called to Order 7:15PM

Approval of the Minutes

There was no approval of the March 23, 2011 minutes. The commission tabled the approval of the minutes for the next meeting on April 6, 2011.

J. Chiota confirmed the use of the Fairfield Carter Organizational Section previously inserted in the draft which was not approved by the commission. Per J. Chiota, delete this section out of the Charter draft completely.

CHAPTER VIII. ELECTORAL PROCESS

W. Holden submitted language for a new **Section 3. Election of the First Selectman and the Town Council.**

MOTION made by WH to add a new Section 3. Election of the First Selectman and the Town Council, seconded G. Hanna.

VOTE: failed (4-1-0)

R. Maslan submitted language for a new **Section 9. Special Referendum Requirements.** to be inserted under new Section 9.

Also, insert: **“I. Any expenditure reduced pursuant to this referendum cannot be restored in part or in full by way of supplemental appropriation without a two-third (2/3) approval by both the Board of Finance and the Town Council.”**

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the proposed new language submitted by R. Friedson. W. Holden noted he does not like the wording. R. Friedson agreed to alternate wording. Also, for the record, J. Cordone indicated he is opposed to this new language.

R. Friedson also submitted new language to be inserted under **Section 9. “J. Bonded Debt.”**

CHAPTER III. EXECUTIVE BRANCHI.

Section 3. A. - Replace “Director of Finance” with “*Town Treasurer*”.

Section 3. B. - Second paragraph, fifth line and sixth line, replace “Director of Finance” with “*Town Treasurer*”.

Section 3. B. - Replace “Town” election with “*Municipal*” election.

Section 3. – Last paragraph replace “perform” with “*become*” and also delete “acting”.

Section 6. – Third paragraph, third line, after “town”, insert: “*including all special agency and enterprise funds*”.

Section 6. – At the end of the fourth paragraph, insert: “*including all special agency and enterprise funds*”.

G. *Purchasing contracts and expenditures.*

(a) After the first sentence, insert: “*The Town’s Purchasing Policy shall be in accordance with the policy as adopted by the Town Council.*”

(a). – T. Herbst suggested language be inserted: “*in accordance with the purchasing policy as most recently adopted by the Town Council.*”

“*(g) No one vendor shall be allowed to receive more than one (1) bid waiver in any three (3) year period. Bid waivers in excess of \$500,000 must receive the Town Council approval by a two-third (2/3) majority vote.*”

“*(h) Upon change of administration, no contract may be signed from the date of the election to the installment of new officers.*”

Section 8. Town Counsel. - Change back to “*Town Attorney*”.

There was further discussion regarding the combination of the Park, Recreation and Youth Commissions. It was agreed that the language would need to be changed in the existing wording of the Charter.

Superintendent of Bridges and Highways – change to Director of Public Works.

Section 13. Civil Defense. Change to Civil “*Preparedness.*”

CHAPTER II.

Section 5. Meetings. Insert new language at the end of the paragraph: “*Such additional requirements under the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act as amended.*”

The commission discussed suggestions from John Marsillio, the Director of Public Works, to phase out the publication of notices in the newspaper and posting them on the Town Website and to allow for electronic filing. This was not approved.

The commission agreed they would not be changing language to include the maintenance of buildings with the maintenance of buildings for the Board of Education. They will keep the existing language in the Charter.

Section. 13 - Civil Defense. – change to “*Civil Preparedness*”.

Timothy Herbst proposed adding a new section “*Economic and Community Affairs*.”

The next Charter Revision Commission is scheduled for April 6, 2011.

Ajourned: 10:50PM

Respectfully submitted:

Marilou Mangiamele, Clerk