

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Hadley Rose called the Special Meeting of the Simsbury Charter Revision Commission to order at 5:35 p.m. on Thursday, March 30, 2016. The meeting was held in the Board of Education Conference Room of the Simsbury Town Offices located at 933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT. In attendance were the following commission members: Paul Henault, Jeff Tindall, Anita Mielert, Thomas Benneche, James Ray, Edward Pabich and Robert Crowther. Staff included Tom Cooke, Director of Administrative Services and Robert DeCrescenzo, Town Attorney.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

### **PUBLIC AUDIENCE**

Ms. Joan Coe of 26 Whitcomb Drive suggested that the Commission revisits having a Manager/Council form of government with a Chairman chosen from the elected council without a salary. She also recommended that the Commission provides hardcopies of the budget for the public since many people don't have access to computers. Ms. Coe also suggested that Economic Development is assigned to a professional, not an elected official.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **a. Review of Minutes**

– Special Meeting of March 23 2016: Minutes were approved as submitted

–Special Meeting of March 24, 2016: Changes are in red text.

Page 2, paragraph 3: The motion should read as follows:

*Commissioner Benneche moved to strike the following text from Section 411, paragraph 3: The First Selectman or First Selectwoman shall chair the Board of Selectmen's Personnel Sub-Committee ~~and the Town Manager shall confer with the First Selectman or First Selectwoman on all matters coming before the Personnel Sub-Committee.~~ The motion was seconded by Commissioner Osborne and was unanimously approved.*

Page 2, item b, line 3: Sentence should read as follows:

Commissioner Crowther said that the Economic Development ~~Commission~~ was removed from the Charter and recommended adding ~~a reference to Economic Development in the report.~~

*Minutes for Special Meeting of March 24, 2016 were approved with changes.*

#### **b. Review of, Changes to and Final Approval of Proposed Revised Charter**

Tom Cooke mentioned that according to the current language of the draft Charter, the First Selectman's stipend could increase in the middle of the term which might be problematic according to state statute. He recommended that a stipend is set at the beginning of the term for the entire term.

Commissioner Mielert referenced the bottom of page 17 of the draft Charter which states that employees of the police department shall be governed by the provisions of Section 707; however section 707 doesn't reference anything about the Town Manager having a role in selecting the Chief of Police.

Robert DeCrescenzo, Town Attorney commented that under Section 613D it states that the Police Commission shall be responsible for personnel matters within the police department. Commissioner Mielert added that she thinks the Town Manager should have a role with choosing and removing the Chief of Police. Commissioner Mielert said that she was involved in the hiring process of the Chief of Police when she was First Selectman.

Commissioner Benneche agreed with Commissioner Mielert's comment that the Town Manager should have a choice in selecting a Police Chief. He raised the question if the Town Manager should be involved in vetting and then presenting a Police Chief to the Police Commission.

Commissioner Henault said that these are substantial changes being discussed regarding the power of the Town Manager which requires more serious discussion and possibly having the Police Chief and Police Commission present their comments before the Commission. Commissioner Henault said there hasn't been discussion among the Commission that the Town Manager has a role in the hiring of the Police Chief or the Police Department and he doesn't think it is appropriate to make such a significant change without studying the topic more thoroughly.

After much discussion among the Commission members, Commissioner Benneche suggested that the Police Commission and Town Manager shall recommend a Police Chief to the Board of Selectman. The Commission agreed with his suggestion.

***Commissioner Mielert moved to change the first sentence of Section 707, (a) Chief:***

***The Police Commission and **Town Manager** shall **jointly** recommend to the Board of Selectmen who shall appoint and may remove....***

***Commissioner Benneche seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.***

**c. Review of Changes to and Final Approval of Final Report of Charter Revision Commission.**

Commissioner Rose asked if any Commission members want to add more comments to the report.

Commissioner Benneche said that he objects to the language “there was no testimony from current First Selectman from towns that do not have a Town Manager”. Commissioner Rose instructed the members to forward comments to Robert DeCrescenzo and Tom Cooke. He added not to communicate among each other.

**d. Set Time and Date for Public Hearing on Proposed Revised Charter**

Robert DeCrescenzo recommended scheduling another Special Meeting prior to the public hearing. The Commission agreed to hold a Special Meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm and the Public Hearing on April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

**ADJOURN**

***The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Rose at 6:47 p.m.***

Respectfully Submitted,  
Irene Muench