

From: Carolyn Keily June 18, 2012 7:16:40 PM
Subject: Charter Revision Commission Minutes 06/12/2012
To: SimsburyCT_CharRevComm
Cc:

BOARD OF SELECTMEN/CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
JUNE 12, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER

Deputy First Selectman John Hampton called the special joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and Charter Revision Commission to order at 6:10 P. M. in the auditorium of Eno Memorial Hall, 754 Hopmeadow Street. The following selectmen were also present: Nancy Haase, Lisa Heavner, and Moira Wertheimer. The following Charter Revision Commission Members were also present: Darren Cunningham, James Fleming, Robert Heagney, Brad Mead, John O'Neil, Peter Pabich, and Dave Ryan. Also present were Attorney Robert DeCrescenzo; Tom Cooke, Director of Administrative Services; Lisa Gray, Commission Clerk; and other interested parties.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance

III. PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Robert Kalechman requested that a section pertaining to Constables be restored to the Charter.

IV. DISCUSSION OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO
THE PROPOSED CHARTER

Technical Changes

Pertaining to the first motion made by the Board of Selectmen at their meeting of May 14, 2012, regarding Section 409(f) of the proposed Charter, Attorney DeCrescenzo advised Board and Commission members that the word "voters" could be added to the section to clarify who is eligible to cast a vote at a town meeting. The Charter, as it is proposed, indicates that only "electors" are eligible to vote at town meetings.

Regarding Section 409(g), Attorney DeCrescenzo and Charter Revision

Chairman Robert Heagney clarified the Town Meeting procedures as proposed in the revised Charter, which proposes to eliminate the requirement to hold a Town Meeting for budget items that are less than \$1.8 million.

Design Review Board

At its meeting of May 14, 2012, the Board of Selectmen requested that the Charter Revision Commission hold a joint meeting with the Design Review Board to discuss Design Review Board terms, qualifications, scope, procedures, size, and who they report to.

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Charter Revision Commission Chairman Robert Heagney noted that the Board of Selectmen's request is not a concrete recommendation.

Section 808, Board of Finance Pension Responsibilities

At its meeting of May 14, 2012, the Board of Selectmen requested that the Charter Revision Commission review Section 808, regarding the Board of Finance pension responsibilities, and clarify whether this language should be in an ordinance and address other issues with regard to this section.

Charter Review Commission Chairman Robert Heagney clarified that the current language would create no personal liability for any members of the Board of Finance.

Lisa Heavner and Nancy Haase addressed the Charter vs. ordinance issue and Attorney DeCrescenzo responded that there is a current ordinance pertaining to the pension responsibilities, but that it is outdated and needs to be amended to make a pension sub-committee part of the ordinance and address the responsibilities of the sub-committee, the Board of Selectmen, and the Board of Finance. He felt that the language in the Charter pertaining to this issue is fine, but that it does also need to be addressed in an ordinance.

After further discussion, Charter Revision Commission Chairman Robert Heagney noted that the Board of Selectmen's request is not a concrete recommendation.

Consideration of Public Audience at all meetings

At its meeting of May 14, 2012, the Board of Selectmen requested that the Charter Revision Commission consider requiring public audience at all

meetings.

Commission member Darren Cunningham asked if it was the desire of the Board of Selectmen that Public Audience be a requirement in the Charter. Deputy First Selectman Hampton responded in the affirmative, but Nancy Haase and Lisa Heavner stated that the request was simply to “reconsider” the issue.

Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Heagney both noted that the Board of Selectmen’s request, as it’s stated in their minutes, is not a concrete recommendation. Board of Selectmen/Charter Revision Commission

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Mr. Cunningham further commented that there is nothing in the Charter specifically forbidding Public Audience in any meeting, and it is left up to each individual Board or Commission to determine if a Public Audience is appropriate at their meetings.

III. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Heavner to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 PM.

Secretary