

From: Carolyn Keily July 14, 2011 10:14:59 AM  
Subject: Charter Revision Commission Minutes 06/28/2011  
To: SimsburyCT\_CharRevComm  
Cc:

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
June 28, 2011

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Robert Heagney called the regular meeting of the Charter Revision Commission to order at 7:08 P. M. in Room 103 at Simsbury Town Hall. The following members were also present: Darren Cunningham, Brad Mead, Dan Monroe, Peter Pabich, and Dave Ryan. Also present was Lisa Gray, Commission Clerk, and other interested parties.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. DISCUSSION WITH INVITED GUESTS

Chairman Heagney introduced Phil Schenck, former Avon Town Manager, and Albert Ilg, former Windsor Town Manager.

Phil Schenck talked about the duties and role of a professional administrator and how that position has become popular in town government in recent years. He noted that there has been a movement toward the "professionalization" of government, and that the "council management" form of government is the prevailing form in communities of 50,000 or less throughout the U.S. However, of the 169 municipalities in Connecticut, fewer than 40 have a Town Manager or Chief Administrative Officer.

Albert Ilg gave his impressions and observations of Simsbury's town government based on his seven months of service as Simsbury's interim Administrative Director in 2010. Mr. Ilg noted that Simsbury's residents have a tremendous interest in serving their town, and commended the town for that. He described Simsbury's government as "de-centralized" and, as such, the responsibility and authority are separated – the Board of Selectmen has the responsibility, but the Board of Finance has the authority. He also stated that there is very little continuity of administration among departments that are not overseen by a commission. He

suggested that the Human Resources function be strengthened to reflect the current requirements of collective bargaining. He also suggested that it would be more efficient to combine the boards and functions of planning and zoning, and more appealing to applicants.

Ilg further recommended that individuals in the positions of Chief Administrative Officer and Personnel Director be hired to oversee the town.

#### IV. OTHER BUSINESS

The commissioners discussed their schedule of meetings, and Mr. Cunningham proposed that the Board of Selectmen be contacted for their suggestions regarding Charter revision. Chairman Heagney agreed and said they will be contacted.

#### V. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Ryan to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 PM.

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Brad Mead, Secretary