

Charter Study Committee

Regular Meeting

September 15, 2011

Municipal Center - Room 300

Minutes

PRESENT: Robert Berube, Robert Cornish, Richard Drezek, Scott Saunders, Thomas Warnat, Christopher Wazorko

ABSENT: Stephen Martino

STAFF: Robert E. Lee, Town Manager, Daniel Grasso, Intern

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the August 29th meeting with one correction was made by Mr. Saunders.

Second by: Mr. Mr. Wazorko

All those in favor 6, Opposed 0, Motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion of Town Charter

Mr. Drezek pointed out that there were two guests who were attending the meeting, Mr. Wazorko made a motion to allow public comment

Second by Mr. Cornish

Passed unanimously 6-0

Louis Frangos, 10 Fairbanks Street stated that he would like to see term limits. He also stated that the method of voting on the budget needs to change.

A discussion followed and the committee made it clear that members of the public are encouraged to contact committee members to provide specific recommendations they have for changing the Charter.

Following much discussion the Committee decided to handle all of the budget related items at a future meeting.

The members proceeded through the Public Hearing comments from August 29th. After discussion the Committee decided not to explore the concepts of unlimited budget votes or a separate board of finance.

The Committee discussed the positive and negative aspects of allowing a recall provision and term limits. After discussion the Committee decided to continue to discuss the following Charter changes:

- Returning to the town meeting format
- Combining the Education and Town Finance Departments
- Four-year over-lapping terms for Town Council
- Whether to elect Constables
- Posting the entire ordinance in newspaper
- Eliminate the language that states Planning and Zoning shall put together the capital improvement budget since the Town Manager is doing it now
- Changing Dog Warden to Animal Control Officer
- Clarifying language regarding the health department
- Duties of the manager allow Manager to adjust Education budget when presenting his budget recommendation
- Change the budget public hearing schedule
- Consider mandatory budget reduction if vote fails
- Change the 3rd budget vote
- Quorum before being rejected on an all-day vote

4. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Mr. Wazorko

Second by: Mr. Berube

All those in favor 6, all those opposed 0, Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Submitted by,

Daniel Grasso

Intern

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SEP 27 2011

Carol A. Skutumpah
TOWN CLERK