

**Charter Revision Commission  
Regular Meeting  
April 5, 2012  
Municipal Center-Council Chamber**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Daphne Adams, Robert Cornish, Jo Rosinski, John Gasparini, William Brayne, Robert Michalic

**Absent:** Robert Berube

**Staff Present:** Robert Lee, Town Manager; Michael Mastrianni, Town Attorney

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Cornish.

**2. Meeting Minutes**

**Motion to approve meeting minutes from March 15, 2012 regular meeting: Mr. Gasparini**

**Second by: Ms. Adams**

**All in Favor 6, All Opposed 0, Motion passed unanimously**

**3. Correspondence**

Correspondence was received by Peter Chase, Library Director. Commission members discussed previous correspondence received by John Kisluk. It was agreed that Mr. Kisluk's questions and concerns were answered and that he was satisfied with the reply he received.

**4. Old Business**

Tabled Items

Justice of the Peace

**Motion to take it off the table by Mr. Gasparini**

**Second by Mr. Michalic**

**All in Favor 6, All Opposed 0, Motion Passes Unanimously**

The Town Attorney reported there is no conflict between the number of positions listed in the Town Charter, Town Ordinance and State Statutes. Justice of the Peace must be an elected position.

**Motion to remove the Justice of the Peace position and change it from an elected position to an appointed one was made by Mr. Gasparini**

**Seconded by Mr. Michalic**

Discussion followed and the Town Attorney advised it must be an elected position and it cannot be removed.

**Motion to rescind the previous motion was made by Mr. Gasparini**

**Seconded by Mr. Michalic**

**All in Favor 6, All Opposed 0, Motion Passes Unanimously**

Judge of Probate

**Motion to take it off the table by Mr. Michalic**

**Second by Mr. Gasparini**

**All in Favor 6, All Opposed 0, Motion Passes Unanimously**

Discussion followed regarding the election of the Judge of Probate.

**Motion to remove Judge of Probate from the Town Charter by Mr. Michalic**

**Second by Mr. Gasparini**

**All in Favor 6, All Opposed 0, Motion Passes Unanimously**

Compensation (Town Council)

The Town Attorney stated most communities of similar size to Plainville do not compensate their Town Council. Specifically, he checked; i.e., Berlin, Farmington, Monroe, Madison and Rocky Hill. Their Charters state the Council will serve without compensation, except for proper expenses approved by the Council. The Town Manager was asked to gather information from CCM, but he has not yet received information back. Compensation will remain tabled.

Investigation

**Motion to take it off the table by Mr. Gasparini**

**Second by Ms. Adams**

**All in Favor 6, All Opposed 0, Motion Passes Unanimously**

The Town Attorney stated previous discussion was to have two particular paragraphs; one to cover investigations and one to cover just inquiries. Investigations would require the authority of the entire Council, but inquiries can be made by any Council Member. Discussion continued regarding changing of the words "books and papers" to "documents (paper or electronic)".

**Motion to put it back on the table by Mr. Michalic**

**Second by Mr. Gasparini**

**All in Favor 6, All Opposed 0, Motion Passes Unanimously**

Purchasing

The Town Attorney asked for clarification of what the Commission is looking for in this section so he can put together specific language. The Chairman will consult with the Town Attorney. Language will be prepared by the Town Attorney for a future meeting.

### Payment of Claims

The Commission is waiting for the Feasibility Study Final Report which is expected to be complete by mid-May. Payment of Claims will remain tabled.

### Budget Town Meeting

The Chairman asked the Charter Revision Commission Members if they were in favor of the petitioning process (Glastonbury Model) they have been discussing. The Members expressed concern that it's much more for the citizens to do and complicates the process. They do not feel the residents will be in favor of only one vote. It should be kept simple since we do not typically have a large turnout. The Chairman wanted to get a feel for the direction of the Commission. With the Town Council terms remaining at 2 years, he is somewhat in favor of the process. The petition process offers a lot of flexibility.

The Commission also discussed the cost of the current budget process. A lot of money goes into the current process especially if there are three votes. Even with three votes, there are times voters are still not happy with the outcome. Mr. Gasparini would like to look into mailing the budget vote to registered voters. It is a possible solution to having more participation in the budget voting process. He also suggested there be two budgets to vote on, one for the Town and one for the Board of Education. Concerns were raised about the validity of mailing votes.

## **5. New Business**

### Chapter 8 – The Merit System

#### Section 1 – Merit System Established

No change.

#### Section 2 – The Classified Service

The Town Manager was asked to come back with recommended language that would simplify this section.

**Motion to table The Classified Service by Mr. Michalic**

**Seconded by Ms. Rosinski**

**All in Favor 6, All Opposed 0, Motion Passes Unanimously**

#### Section 3 – Retirement of Municipal Employees

No changes.

### Chapter 9 – Town Meetings

#### Section 1 – Procedure

It was discussed if Chapter 9, Section 1 belongs in the Charter any longer due to the change in the budget process. The Town Attorney will research to see if this should be covered somewhere else in the Charter.

**Motion to table Chapter 9 by Mr. Gasparini**

**Seconded by Ms. Rosinski**

**All in Favor 6, All Opposed 0, Motion Passes Unanimously**

Chapter 10 – Transition and Miscellaneous Provisions

Section 1 – Transfer of Powers

No changes needed to Section 1.

Section 2 – Tenure Rights

No changes needed to Section 2.

Section 3 – Transfer of Records and Property

No changes needed to Section 3.

Section 4 – Contributions

The Town Manager mentioned that this Section ties the hands of the Town Council. Former Town Attorney Michalik will be contacted to see if he has a better understanding of the purpose of Section 4.

**Motion to table Contributions by Mr. Michalik**

**Seconded by Ms. Gasparini**

**All in Favor 6, All Opposed 0, Motion Passes Unanimously**

Section 5 – Legal Proceedings

The Town Attorney was asked to review and update the language.

**Motion to table Legal Proceedings by Mr. Michalik**

**Seconded by Ms. Gasparini**

**All in Favor 6, All Opposed 0, Motion Passes Unanimously**

Section 6 – Existing Laws and Ordinances

The language may be outdated at this time. The Town Attorney will review and come back with a recommendation.

**Motion to table Existing Laws and Ordinances by Ms. Rosinski**

**Seconded by Ms. Gasparini**

**All in Favor 6, All Opposed 0, Motion Passes Unanimously**

Section 7 – Amendment of Charter

No changes needed to Section 7.

Section 8 – Ethics

No changes needed to Section 8.

Section 9 – Gender

No changes needed to Section 9.

Section 10 – Saving Clause

No changes needed to Section 10.

**6. Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn by Mr. Michalic**

**Second by Ms. Rosinski**

**All in Favor 6, All Opposed 0, Motion Passes Unanimously**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.**

Submitted by,

Lisa Metayer

Executive Assistant

**RECEIVED**

MAY 10 2012

*CAROL A. Spurr*  
TOWN CLERK

**APPROVED**