

Brookfield Charter Revision Committee
DRAFT MINUTES (approved 3/29/12)
Thursday March 1, 2012, 7:00 p.m.
Selectman's Conference Room (2nd Floor), Brookfield Town Hall

Chairman Miller convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and established a quorum of members.

Present: Chairman L. Miller, Vice Chairman J. Park, Secretary D. Miles, G. Dembowski, R. Jaffe, S. Martone, D. Propper, P. Scalzo

Absent: M. Labadia.

Also Present: Recording Secretary D. Cioffi

1.0 Public Comments (15 minutes).

No one was present.

2.0 Correspondence.

The following were noted and submitted for the record: email from Mr. Foley, Brookfield Housing Authority, dated March 1, 2012 and responses thereto (from D. Propper and D. Grogins).

In light of this email, Chairman Miller stated that he changed his Draft Presentation to the Board of Selectmen. A change to Addendum A of the Charter will be added to comply with Connecticut General Statutes Section 28-841. This change will be added to the list of technical changes.

3.0 Review and Accept February 16, 2012 Meeting Minutes.

Chairman Miller noted a correction at the bottom of Page 1 of the February 16, 2012 Meeting Minutes, in the last sentence. Attorney Grogins has advised him that the Charter Revision Commission will be disbanded on May 10, 2012, not on April 15, 2012.

Chairman Miller indicated that after presenting the CRC recommendations to the BOS, the BOS will have forty-five days to respond, and the CRC has an additional thirty days to issue its final report. Chairman Miller suggested that the CRC supply the BOS with the presentation materials in advance of the presentation. Due to a scheduling conflict with Vice Chairman Park, Chairman Miller will speak with the First Selectman and request that the March 19, 2012 Special Meeting with the BOS begin at 7:30 p.m.

There was discussion regarding the Special Appropriations/Transfer Appropriations discussion which starts at the bottom of page 2, Charter Article/Section C8-5A. Chairman Miller thought that Commissioner Labadia had suggested one percent of the municipal (change from Town

budget and a change from \$20,000.00/\$50,000.00 for special appropriations and borrowing). The Commissioners reviewed their notes from the meeting. It was determined that the correct percentage is 0.5% of the municipal budget. Commissioner Martone corrected Secretary Miles' document "Brookfield Charter Revision Commission – Proposed Changes: Draft". Chairman Miller also noted that this applies to special appropriations only.

In Chairman Miller's presentation, any reference to borrowing will be removed, as will discussion regarding the aggregate.

To correct the discussion in the Minutes of the February 16, 2012 meeting, on the top of Page 3, the text of the paragraph will be deleted, and the sentence, "Section C8-5A of the Charter was discussed." will replace it.

The thoroughness and volume of changes being proposed in the Charter Revision were noted, as was the Commission's charge to make town government more efficient and accountable.

Commissioner Propper suggested that the document be read by the order of the changes and the associated sections.

Commissioner Propper moved to approve the Minutes of the February 16, 2012 Meeting. Commissioner Martone seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

6.0 Review Presentation Materials to the BOS.

The presentation materials, including the correction regarding "special appropriations"; and the five-year limit for Housing Authority will be sent to the BOS in advance of the presentation.

4.0 Review Final Draft Charter Revisions.

Commissioner Propper advised that some of the "technical" changes should be with moved to the Town Manager section of Secretary Miles' document "Brookfield Charter Revision Commission – Proposed Changes: Draft". (attached) There was discussion regarding Section C6-9, Chief of Police and Section C6-10, Town Attorney. After discussion, the Commission decided it to keep the latter as it was discussed at the last meeting (changing "shall" to "may").

With regard to Section C4-9D (not on Secretary Miles' document), which discusses submittal of proposed changes in ordinances and public initiatives to the Town Attorney; this section will not be changed.

With regard to Section C5-5, this change should be part of the First Selectman portion of changes. This is not a technical change, and the word, "technical" will be removed.

Commissioner Propper also pointed out that the numbering needs to be correction in Section C6-1; 2-18. There was discussion regarding Section 6-10D and it was clarified that when there are issues that require the Town Attorney, they must go through the BOS for referral. There was discussion regarding the clarification of petition action, and change in petition threshold on pages 4 and 5 of Secretary Miles' document. The proposed changes in Section C6-1, and C7-6 were also discussed.

The following technical change was noted by Chairman Miller, "In accordance with C.G.S. Section 8-41, the term of appointment for municipal housing authority board members is five years." Additionally, Commissioner Martone pointed out that in Section C9-5, the percentage of signatures for the Town meeting should be changed from three to four percent.

The Commission will now attempt to get the presentation materials to the BOS by Monday, March 5, 2012.

5.0 Review Draft Ballot Questions. (attached)

Chairman Miller will call Attorney Grogins to determine if another bullet point will be added under Draft Ballot Question #5, as it relates to the housing authority members' terms.

The bullet points for Draft Ballot Question #8, were reviewed. The following will be eliminated: Section C5-4; Section C-1, 2-18; portion of Section C3-2B, 1, 2, that reads, "renumber", and Section 6-10C.

There was lengthy discussion regarding whether the word, "technical" in Draft Ballot Question #8 should be changed or deleted. **Commissioner Jaffe moved to use the word, "technical". Commissioner Scalzo seconded the motion, and it carried, 6-2, with Vice Chairman Park and Commissioner Propper opposing.**

6.0 Review Presentation Materials to the BOS. (continued)

Chairman Miller indicated that in light of tonight's discussion, he will make a few changes to the Draft Presentation, including a slide regarding the next steps, the additional ballot questions, the special appropriations, and deletion of names.

There was discussion regarding comments made at the January 26, 2012 public hearing related to the increase in the number of selectmen and voter turnout.

There was discussion regarding whether or not public comment would be allowed at the CRC's presentation to the BOS at the Special Meeting on March 19, 2012. Chairman Miller will add to his presentation the fact that the BOS will have a public hearing.

Miscellaneous

It was noted that there will not be a regular meeting on March 15, 2012.

7.0 Public Comments (15 minutes).

No one present.

8.0 Adjourn.

Commissioner Propper moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Vice Chairman Park seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.