

**CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION  
TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR  
11 RYE STREET  
EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT 06088**

These minutes are not official until approved at the subsequent meeting.

**Minutes of Regular Meeting**

**Thursday, April 3, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.**

Members Present:	Richard LeBorinous, Richard Pippin, Jr., Alan Baker, Karla Schultz, Leonard Norton and Lois Noble
Members Absent:	Charles Riggott
Others:	Kathy Pippin and Paul Anderson
Press:	None

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Richard LeBorinous called the Regular Meeting to Order at 6:35p.m. in the East Windsor Town Hall.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

**• Regular Meeting Minutes of March 20, 2014**

It was **MOVED** (Pippin) and **SECONDED** (Baker) and **PASSED** (5-0) (In Favor – R. LeBorinous, K. Schultz, R. Pippin, A. Baker and L. Noble; Opposed – None; Abstain – L. Norton) that the Charter Revision Commission approves the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 26, 2014 as presented.

**III. Public Comments**

Mr. Paul Anderson, 89 Main Street, Broad Brook, addressed the Board. He was speaking as a citizen of the Town and as the Chairman of the WPCA. He gave a handout from the Charter Revision of 2006 wherein it was asked that the WPCA would have two alternate members on their Board. The Charter Revision 2006 did not pass the Town vote. He gave a brief description of the WPCA and the make-up of the Board. The WPCA manages a \$1.6 Million Dollar budget and makes decisions which affects residents and commercial taxpayers, which meets once a month. There are some meetings which cannot take place due the fact there are not enough members present to make a quorum.

A brief discussion was held and it was noted that this Commission at previous meetings took this section out of the Charter and have indicated such

decisions regarding number of members of particular Boards and alternate members will be fully explained through Town Ordinances which are adopted by the Board of Selectmen.

**IV. New Business**

None.

**V. Old Business**

**a. General Overview of Charter**

The discussion began regarding Chapter VII and the removal of Board Members. It was mentioned that the Board of Selectmen recently adopted an Ordinance in which addresses this issue.

A brief discussion was held.

It was **MOVED** (Baker) and **SECONDED** (Noble) and **PASSED** (6-0) (In Favor - K. Schultz, R. Pippin, A. Baker, R. LeBoriosis, L. Norton and L. Noble; Opposed – None) that the Charter Revision Commission recommends changing Chapter VII, Section 7-2 Appointed Boards and Commissions. The change should read as follows:

“The Boards and Commissions shall be established, by ordinance, subject to the provisions and powers enumerated in Connecticut General Statutes and this Charter, shall be appointed by the Board of Selectman.” The remaining subsections 7-2 (A through M) are deleted.

It was the general consensus Section 7-3 and 7-4 no changes to be made. Section 7-5 it was the general consensus to strike “required by this Charter” and Section 7-6 will stay as is written.

The next Chapter to be discussed was Chapter VIII. Mr. LeBoriosis commented that this section concerns with the budget and how the budget is passed and implemented. He indicated there are four general, basic questions which have to be answered in this section. Those are:

- How to deal with the budget;
- Who approves the budget;
- Number of referendums; and,
- What transpires if the referendums fail?

He remarked that there has been a lot of discussion and everyone has put great thought in regards to these questions. Mr. LeBoriosis had his suggestions on these questions. He suggested changing the number of referendums from three to two. He recommends that the budget should be voted upon by a Town Meeting and if approved at that meeting, the budget is approved and the process ends. At the Town Meeting, the budget would be presented to the public by the Town Administration and the School Administration. At the end of the presentations, the Town Meeting would vote upon the budget. If the budget is approved, the process is complete. If anyone petitions to call a referendum, they would have to do so and have approximately 10% of the voting population sign said petition in order for a referendum challenge. It was noted most towns have a 5% of the voting population which is approximately 200 signatures. It did not seem too hard of a task to obtain 200 signatures to cause a referendum. The discussion then turned to trusting the elected officials and their choices for the town, given they live and breathe the budget and know each and every department and their needs and wants for their respective departments. The general public usually does not have too much knowledge of the budget as those elected officials who go to countless budget workshop meetings and hear department heads discuss their departments and their needs. One of the suggestions were having questions on the ballots during the referendums asking the voter the reason for their vote, because the town's budget was too high or low and if the Board of Education budget was too high or low. They compared surrounding town's budget processes via Town Meetings and referendums.

It was then asked if the budget is not passed, what would be the process to approve a budget. Mr. LeBoriosis indicated that a clarification of the 2% default increase and how that increase is applied to the budget. It was mentioned that the way the 2% default is applied has been described and discussed in a legal opinion obtained by the First Selectman and should be in the possession of the First Selectman. Mr. LeBoriosis indicated he was troubled that defaulting 2% giving an example that sometimes the inflation rate is higher than 2% and when that exists, the town will suffer and be unable to sustain.

A lengthy discussion was held and finally Mr. LeBoriosis went around the table and asked each and every member how they felt on having meetings and/or referendums. The general feeling was two town meetings and one referendum. It was decided to have the members think about this issue before it will be voted upon. The discussion then went into how the

default would be figured and how it would be implanted. It was suggested 2% plus the increase in the grand list, it was also suggested that each department would receive a default percentage rather than each line receiving a default percentage. It was also suggested that maybe the default should be appropriated by the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance where they deem necessary. Whatever decision is made regarding the default percentage, it was suggested it should be clearly laid out in the Charter so there is no confusion as to what happens and how those funds are allocated.

Chapter VIII was discussed. Mr. LeBoriosis commented that language in this Chapter will be eliminated and this Chapter will be considerably shorter. He indicated he will be drafting language for this Chapter for everyone to review at the next meeting.

Mr. LeBoriosis then began discussing the Chapter VIII and the possibilities of having two professional administrators of the town, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer and also having a ceremonial First Selectman to work part-time. He discussed the benefits of having such administrators in such roles. He will be drafting language for this section and will bring it to the next meeting to discussion in greater depth.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding Town Administrators.

Chapters IX, X, XI were then briefly discussed. Mr. Pippin commented that the suggestion of the Town Clerk of changing the requirement of having a Town Meeting for transfers should be changed and this would be addressed in Chapter X. A brief discussion was held and it was noted that this requirement is from the Board of Finance policy. Mr. Pippin also mentioned in Chapter IX a change of length of contracts should be changed from three years to four or five years. It seems that every three years contract negotiation costs the town a lot of money in legal fees alone. A brief discussion was held. It was the general consensus to change the length of contracts (bargaining units) to four years. There was also a brief discussion regarding the time of a Town Meeting and changing that time which now is 7:30 p.m. and changing it to 7:00 p.m.

Mr. LeBoriosis indicated he would have language drafted for the next meeting to be reviewed by the Board. Mr. Baker remarked that he has already drafted parts of the Charter from changes proposed already at previous meetings. He will work with Mr. LeBoriosis in drafting those language changes.

Mr. LeBorious indicated that the next scheduled meeting for April 17, 2014 will be cancelled. He indicated the meeting will be rescheduled to Wednesday, April 23, 2014.

**VI. Adjournment**

It was **MOVED** (Noble) and **SECONDED** (Schultz) and **PASSED** (6-0) (In Favor - K. Schultz, R. Pippin, A. Baker, R. LeBorious, L. Norton and L. Noble; Opposed – None) that the Charter Revision Commission adjourns the April 3, 2014 Regular Meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise M. Piotrowicz  
Recording Secretary