

**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 Public Hearing**

**Thursday, May 27, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.**

Members Present:	Robert LeBorious, Lois Noble, Karla Schultz, Leonard Norton, Richard Pippin, Jr. and Alan Baker
Members Absent:	Charles Riggott
Others:	Kathy Pippin, Peggy Hoffman, Denise Menard, David Menard, Chief Edward DeMarco, Gil Hayes, Paul Anderson, Jack Mannette, John Mathews, Tom Muska, Jason Bowsza, Tom Strempher, Robert Maynard and others
Press:	None

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Richard LeBorious called the Public Hearing to Order at 7:30 p.m. in the East Windsor Town Hall.

Chairman LeBorious thanked everyone for attending the Public Hearing. He read into the record the Public Hearing Notice which appeared in the *Journal Inquirer* on May 26, 2014. He indicated to everyone the ground rules were simple, anyone who would like to address the Committee, a sign-up sheet was on the conference table and it was asked that they write their name and address and to limit their comments related to the Charter only, to three minutes. The purpose of the meeting is to obtain public input and comments regarding the Town of East Windsor Charter.

Before the Commission entertained public comments, a brief overview of the proposed changes was given by way of a PowerPoint presentation. The Board of Selectmen by way of statute is to review the Charter every five years. The Commission began meeting in October of 2013 and have met twice a month for the past seven months. The Commission Members are a diverse group of individuals who all have the best interest of the Town and there were many discussions and compromises throughout the many meetings. Mr. LeBorious explained the proposed changes the Commission has made, which are:

- Removing Constables
- ZBA appointed positions rather than elected

- Expanding BOS to six elected members and First Selectman and expanding powers for the Board of Selectmen
- Removing Board of Finance
- Proposing Town Administrator
- Budget process three referendums to two referendums and if the failure of the budget proposals would default to the adopted budget from the previous year as of April 1 plus 2% or Social Security Cost of Living increase, whichever higher plus any intergovernmental increases

## **II. Public Comments**

Mr. Gil Hayes of 143 Rye Street, Broad Brook, Connecticut addressed the Committee. He commented about the removal of Constables and asked the Commission why this was done. Mr. LeBoriosis advised the Commission felt that the Town has no need for Constables. Mr. Hayes responded indicating that Constables are an elected position and he had worked with the Board of Selectman to obtain identification. The position is an elected position with monetary value.

Mr. Paul Anderson of 89 Main Street, Broad Brook, Connecticut addressed the Committee. He commented that the Social Security Cost of Living Increase is only based upon three months of the year whereas He would like to make a case for using an Annualized Cost of Living Adjustment as is done on the WPCA because the cost of living increase is based upon the whole year and not three months.

Mr. Jack Mannette of 15 Old Ellington Road, East Windsor, Connecticut addressed the Committee. He remarked that the changes which have been proposed and outlined for the Charter are major changes. It is difficult to understand for the average citizen to compare the old Charter with the proposed Charter and all the details. The citizens are going to need time to look at the document. The changes are drastic and it will be difficult for the citizens to understand the changes. The public will need more time to review these proposed changes.

Mr. Tom Stremper of 58 Harrington Road, Broad Brook, Connecticut addressed the Committee. He inquired regarding the Town Administrator versus the First Selectman and asked if the First Selectman would be a full time position. Mr. LeBoriosis commented that it is anticipated that the position of would be a part-time position and would be considered the Chief Executive Officer of the Town and would execute contracts, ceremonial figure and will be the person to have intergovernmental relations with State and Federal officials and agencies. The professional administrator will fill the role as the day to day administration of the Town.

Mr. John Mathews of 169 Melrose Road, East Windsor, Connecticut addressed the Committee. He first wanted to thank all of the volunteers who were sitting on the Committee. He also sat on the last Charter Revision Committee in 2009 and he indicated the document which is being reviewed is 250 years old and these people who are sitting on the Committee are a part of history. One issue that was discussed at the last Charter Revision, the calendar was reviewed to make sure that the Charter questions could be placed on the ballot. Mr. LeBorious indicated that it is the hope of the Commission that this Charter will be on the ballot in November. Mr. Mathews thanked the Board for answering his questions and having open communication with the public.

Mr. Thomas Muska of 216 East Road, East Windsor addressed the Committee. He inquired if the Commission addressed the unions and opening the negotiations of the contracts. The government cannot make the Town move forward in particular in a bad economy. He would like the Charter to address this issue. Mr. LeBorious commented that negotiations with unions are State Statute driven.

Mr. LeBourious asked if anyone else wished to address the Committee, he then gave others who spoke an additional three minutes if they wished.

Mr. Jack Mannede of 15 Old Ellington Road, East Windsor, Connecticut addressed the Committee again. He commented that last Charter Revision Commission had a lawyer present during some of the meetings. He inquired if this Commission had an attorney present. Mr. LeBorious indicated the draft will be sent to the Town Attorney for review once the draft is complete. The reason the Commission did not have an attorney present at every meeting was to save on legal fees.

Mr. Paul Anderson of 89 Main Street, Broad Brook, Connecticut addressed the Committee again. He wanted to reiterate Mr. Mathews' previous comments in the openness the Commission has been with the public. He has attended a few meeting and the Commission was tremendous in listening and explaining issues which were brought to their attention.

Ms. Kathy Pippin of 33 Woolam Road, East Windsor, Connecticut addressed the Committee. She has attended 99% of the meetings and she also wanted to thank the Commission and indicated that suggestions were nicely received when given.

Mr. John Mathews of 169 Melrose Road, East Windsor, Connecticut addressed the Committee again. He commented that in 106 towns throughout Connecticut, how many of those towns have Town Administrator/Board of

Selectman type of government and how many of those towns are doing well. He is retired, but he recalls in business, a problem was identified and then a solution of that problem was developed. He believes that having a Town Administrator is a good way to go for the town.

Mr. Baker explained the Commission during one of their Regular Meeting had Town Administrators of surrounding towns give a presentation of how their respective towns use Town Administrators and Board of Selectmen type of government. The changes in the Charter are from some of those surrounding towns. It was asked what towns were used as examples to make sure they are similar to the demographics of the Town of East Windsor. It was quick noted that the towns were Hebron, Columbia and Glastonbury. Mr. Mathews remarked that the use of a Town Administrator could be beneficial for the town to have a professional to deal with union contracts and writing grants. It was asked what the cost of having the Town Administrator and if any additional staff members were to be added and if the job description had been written. It was answered that the general duties were noted in the Charter, but the actual job description would have to be further developed by the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Mannette added that the Town Administrator would be an at-will employee and would not be able to join a union due to his executive status.

Mr. Paul Anderson of 89 Main Street, Broad Brook, Connecticut addressed the Committee again. He noted that at the WPCA, their Superintendent is an at-will employee and he is not union eligible. He received a letter of intent when he was hired.

Mr. LaBourious asked if anyone else would be interested in speaking to the Committee.

The hearing was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise M. Piotrowicz  
Recording Secretary