

TOWN GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 18, 2014 – Minutes

Meeting called to order by the Chairperson at 6:00 p.m. and the Chairperson advised that the meeting was not being recorded or videotaped, as no one was present to do so.

Present: Chairperson: Phil Washko, Vice Chair: Bernie Roderick, Mark Badwey, Dick Douglass, Siobhan Henebury, and Pattie Pacella

Absent: Rich Griffiths

AGENDA:

Review/approve minutes: September 4, 2014

Dick Douglass made a motion to approve the September 4th minutes and was seconded by Bernie Roderick. The motion passed unanimously.

Opening Public Comment:

None.

Review action items & discuss:

Bernie Roderick advised that he got an appointment date with the BOH on October 20, 2014 at 6pm. Mark Badwey and Pattie Pacella said they would be attending.

Bernie Roderick discussed what he found out about "Strong Chief", he said he received no response from the MMA. He did send an email to MA Police Association and they advised he get in touch with Representative Strauss. He has contacted Rep Strauss by email.

Mark Badwey reported that he spoke with ex Police Chief, Gary Souza who said there were no variations in Strong chief and they are not prohibited to argue the budget at Town Meeting. Mr. Badwey got the impression that a 'strong' police chief isn't as 'strong' as a strong fire chief.

Dick Douglass has done some research on Civil Service and 37% of Towns do not have Civil Service.

Discussion ensued on Civil Service.

Action Item #1: Pattie Pacella to email Bernie Roderick Joe M. email.

Action Item #2: Mark Badwey agreed to look around Towns that have a 'no' Strong chief.

Phil Washko, continued the meeting with a discussion that at the last meeting there was a pretty good discussion about the Charter process and that we really didn't have enough time to pursue it. He said that we could make a recommendation to the Town at Town Meeting that they have a Charter Commission established in the future. Everyone agreed we would be looking at a 'task list' to focus on and each member would do the research out of the meetings, so we could concentrate in the meetings on the research in building up recommendations for Town Meeting.

Research to be done in these areas:

1. Town Meeting (including Ethics clause) – Phil Washko
2. Strong Chiefs – Bernie Roderick
3. BOH appointee – Pattie Pacella
4. Civil Service – Dick Douglass (& Mark Badwey, could it be done away with at TM – strong recommendation to BOS)
5. Fin Comm – Mark Badwey

6. Term Limits – Mark Badwey
7. State Green Commission – Siobhan Henebury
8. Elected vs. Appointed – Rich Griffiths (*should people be able to be on both elected/appointed boards)

The board also decided to write a final report to the Selectman at the end.

Brief discussion on a Special Town Meeting December 9th and if anything would be ready for that meeting. Phil Washko said he may be able to put something forth for IT Assessment, and then an update of what we are working on.

Action Item #3: Phil Washko to find out about how to put something on the TM warrant for December.

PUBLIC OUTREACH PROJECTS:

Discussion on placing an ad with Fhvn. Neigh News
Public Hearing notices – discussion ensued.
Siobhan Henebury agreed to doing a mock up of text for an ad.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Phil Washko heard that at the House of Representatives there was a typo error, missing language in the BPW/Town Administrator paperwork, it has since been amended and forwarded to the Senate. Should go through the House next week.

Bernie Roderick advised he thought our board could not lobby to support the DPW article. He said there were very specific laws regarding.

Action Item #4: Mr. Roderick to look into the role we can take and if it is indeed a conflict of interest.

Phil Washko recommended, however that we send a mailing of what/how we made our decision.

Phil Washko had a discussion about the public survey with moderator, Mark Sylvia, who recommended a discussion with Atty. Tom Crotty on how to post.

Next Meeting will be Thursday, 9/25 at 7:15pm at Arsene Street with Fin Comm.

October 2, 2014 our regularly scheduled meeting.

Pattie Pacella made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Bernie Roderick. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting ended at 7:21 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Patricia A Pacella
Recording Secretary