

TOWN GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 26, 2015 – Minutes

Meeting called to order by the Chairperson at 6:00 p.m. and the Chairperson advised the meeting was NOT being recorded through public access.

Present: Chairperson: Phil Washko, Vice Chair: Bernie Roderick, Mark Badwey, Dick Douglass, Rich Griffiths, Pattie Pacella & Brian Wood

Absent: Siobhan Henebury

Minutes: Dick Douglass made a motion to accept the 2/5/15 & 2/9/15 minutes and Mark Badwey second. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA:

Opening Public Comment:

None.

Finalizing Recommendation Articles:

1. Fin Com

Discussion on recommending Fin Com by-law. Review & discuss.

On 33-5, Brian Wood was of the opinion that “may” be taken out, it should say ‘shall’ vacate his position. Brief discussion on the wording.

Pattie Pacella made the motion to accept the recommendation with amended changes for the Article for Financial Committee by-law and was seconded by Rich Griffiths. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Term Limits

Discussion on Term Limits the responses received from Attorney Crotty.

Questions for Atty. Crotty:

Another option? (There are 3 currently) & what is the procedure to challenge?

How easy would it be to legally challenge?

With option #3, does it have to go back to Town Meeting?

Dick Douglass made a motion to submit proposed article for 2015 Annual Town Meeting for Term Limits Article and was seconded by Mark Badwey. Rich Griffiths abstained. The motion passed with four in agreeance and one oppose (Bernie Roderick).

Dick Douglass then asked if the word “disqualified” could be changed to declared ineligible.

Dick Douglass made a motion to reconsider prior vote and was seconded by Pattie Pacella. The motion passed unanimously.

Pattie Pacella made a motion to ask Atty. Crotty for his review in if there is no change meaning to declared ineligible vs. disqualified that those changes be made and that both the Ballot Term Limit question and the Article for Annual Town Meeting be recommended as an Article. Dick Douglass seconded the motion. The motion passed with 5 in favor, one in opposition (Bernie Roderick).

3. Town Meeting

Discussion of Town Meeting Recommendation, by reviewing and discussion each point:

1. Increase Quorum – do we want 50% rule of current elected members to apply to both regular and adjourned meetings.

Brief discussion on whether or not to increase quorum by 50% of elected members. With a straw vote, 4 were in favor, 2 oppose.

2. Taking quorum more than once. (All agreed to leave as worded)

3. Remove members for lack of attendance. Everyone agreed to a few minor changes. Second sentence, “On January 1 of each year, the Town Clerk “shall advise the Moderator who shall declare the vacancy” & then at the end, the consequence is “missed 3 meetings during their current term”.

4. & 5. Leave as is

Mark Badwey asked that in the article we list as bullets & explaining each. There are some points that will require Special Legislation.

In other business, Phil Washko got information for an IT Assessment. The article will be written to either give names of potential businesses who provide IT Assessment OR \$\$ to appropriate to do an actual IT Assessment.

Pattie Pacella asked when articles were due, Phil said the first week of March.

Discussion on our Public Forum being moved out to March 12th, which is the evening after Candidates night.

Dick Douglass asked about Candidates night and Phil Washko explained that Anne Kakley is in charge of it this year, and asked members of the TGSC to be panelists, but also encouraged all members to attend or give their questions to the panelists; who are Pattie Pacella, Siobhan Henebury, and Rich Griffiths.

Pattie Pacella will email Anne Kakley to ask when the warranted is printed by, and then we will determine when to hold the Public Forum.

Mark Badwey asked if we would need to go in front of the Finance Committee to discuss our articles, discussion ensued.

In closing, Mr. Badwey explained he would be attending the Board of Selectman's tomorrow morning to offer his concern on why they haven't appointed an acting TA as well as informed the Committee that the BPW ballot question was not on the ballot for April, until he asked the Town Clerk this week.

Pattie Pacella made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Rich Griffiths. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Patricia A. Pacella
Recording Secretary