

Town of Milton
Town Government Study Committee
October 25, 2012

The Town Government Study Committee (the “Committee”) met on Thursday, October 25, 2012, in the Cronin Conference Room. The following members were present: Chairman Rick Neely, John Cronin, Marvin Gordon, Michael Joyce, Mary McNamara, Leroy Walker and Katie Conlon. The following members were absent: Annemarie Fagan, Rob Gatnik and Ewan Innes.

Chairman Neely called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Committee voted 5-0-1 (Mr. Gordon abstaining) to approve the minutes of its October 4, 2012 meeting.

Chairman Neely reported on a meeting that he had with the Board of Selectmen to present the Committee’s financial, information technology and PILOT recommendations. He advised that the Board of Selectmen voted to support all three recommendations. Chairman Neely noted that the earliest time that the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (“DOR”) could begin a review of Milton’s financial operations would be late Spring 2013. Chairman Neely has prepared a letter to the DOR for the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee to sign and submit. Ms. McNamara reported on her discussion with the Board of Selectmen, in her role as Chairman of the Town Administrator Search Committee, about the Committee’s proposal to enhance the duties of the Town Administrator.

The Committee discussed two governance recommendations drafted by Ms. McNamara, including a possible reduction in the number of Town Meeting Members and/or rescheduling of the annual election and the annual Town Meeting. Committee members reviewed previously identified issues such as a lack of preparation by some Town Meeting Members prior to Town Meeting, attendance and quorum problems and approaches by various Moderators to controlling Town Meeting. Following discussion, the consensus was that the Committee will prepare a report identifying issues and potential courses of action to be presented to the Board of Selectmen.

Next, the Committee met with Anthony Cichello, Chairman of the School Building Committee and the Consolidated Facilities Committee, and Amy Dexter, Town Accountant and Chairman of the Capital Improvement Planning Committee (“CIPC”), to consider the Town’s capital planning process and whether a permanent building committee should be established. Among the topics discussed was the composition of the CIPC, including whether the Town’s bylaws should be amended to expand the membership to include the Director of Consolidated Facilities and professionals with building and/or capital planning experience. Ms. Dexter suggested that the Committee consider whether the bylaw governing the CIPC should be amended to raise the threshold for capital items considered by the CIPC to an amount greater than \$10,000.

Ms. Conlon reported on, and the Committee discussed, research concerning the composition of the Planning Board and the experiences of the towns of Scituate and Wellesley with an alternate member.

Mr. Cronin suggested that the structure of the Town’s appointed committees may be a topic for the Committee to consider.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:40 p.m. The Committee will meet on November 15, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by:
Katie Conlon, Secretary
November 13, 2012