

Town of Milton

Town Government Study Committee

March 6, 2014

The Town Government Study Committee (the "Committee") met on Thursday March 6, 2014, at 7:00 PM, in the Cronin Conference Room, Milton Town Office Building. The following members were present: Rick Neely, Marvin Gordon, John Cronin, Leroy Walker, Kathy Fagan Bauer, Mary McNamara, and Peter Mullin. Member Robert Hiss joined the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Rick Neely called the meeting to order.

Town Clerk Susan Galvin administered the oath of office to those present. Robert Hiss had been sworn prior to his arrival. The Town Clerk presented each member with the Conflict of Interest Law and the Open Meeting Law, related education and certification materials, as required by state law.

It was moved, seconded and voted unanimously to elect Rick Neely as Committee Chairman. It was agreed to rotate the Clerk duties of keeping minutes, between members.

The Committee voted to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2013 5-0-2. It was noted that the Moderator's intended distribution of "Town Meeting debate limitation bylaws and rules" had not been received. The Chair offered to follow up, to also share copies of Town Counsel's opinion on the matter, and to seek a follow up meeting between the Committee and the Moderator.

The Committee's charge was discussed. The Chair agreed to seek Town Counsel's opinion on the Committee's authority to submit Articles implementing its recommendation by submitting Articles directly to Town Meeting Warrants.

The Chair reviewed the Committee's two year history of deliberation, investigations, and recommendations. He distributed copies of the March 20, 2012 meetings which featured a "white board" discussion of potential inquiry. He explained that a series of meeting were held with department heads to explore options for economies or structural changes. The Committee's findings were reported to the Board of Selectmen and submitted in a 20 page report dated April 25, 2013 to Town Meeting members.

The Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR), Division of Local Services, Technical Assistance Section was asked by the Board of Selectmen and jointly by the School Committee to conduct a "Financial Management Review of the Town's practices. DOR presented the Board of Selectmen a 27 page report, which is available on line www.mass.gov/dls. The Chair suggested scheduling a future meeting to discuss the recommendations of the report.

The Committee decided to conduct another "white board" session at its next meeting, Monday, March 24, 7:00 PM, at Milton High School, room number TDB.

A meeting was scheduled for April 17 with April 3 as a backup option.

Potential resources were discussed. These included he Massachusetts Municipal Association, the Department of Revenue, College Interns, and Public School Community Service students.

Voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:00 PM.

Submitted by

John Cronin