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## TOWN OF NEWTOWN

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

**Minutes of the Charter Revision Commission Meeting held on Friday November 5, 2010 in the Council Chamber at the Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT.**

Charter Revision Commission Chairman William Lavery called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

**PRESENT:** Robert Duero, John Godin, Joseph Golden, William Lavery, Carey Schierloh, Peter Spanedda.

**ABSENT:** Eric Paridis.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Board of Selectmen member Bill Furrier, Legislative Council member Kevin Fitzgerald, one member of the public.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Lavery made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2010 meeting. Motion seconded and unanimously approved.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Board of Selectmen Member Bill Furrier

Mr. Furrier provided a written statement with his views on bifurcation and advisory questions (**attachment A**). Mr. Furrier feels that bifurcation and advisory questions together would clearly identify voter intent.

Mrs. Schierloh asked Mr. Furrier what the Town would do if the Town side of the budget passed, the BOE side failed and advisory questions indicated that voters wanted the BOE side lower but it had already been cut to the point where state funding would be lost? Mr. Furrier responded that State statute says that school funding can't go lower than the previous year so either the Town approves a budget or we fall back to last year's budget. He felt that the Charter may be able to specify that it would default to the previous year. Mr. Spanedda clarified that lowering BOE funding is permitted, however discouraged by State statutes as the Town would lose \$2 for every \$1 in cuts.

Mr. Godin asked Mr. Furrier if bifurcation or voter intent is more important to him. Mr. Furrier responded that he feels that they're the same, but people should be able to self govern as best as they can. Mr. Furrier added that if a budget is not approved by voters than you need to establish