

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

The Charter Revision Commission held a public hearing on Monday, July 28, 2014 in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT. Chairman Jeff Capeci called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Present: Dan Wiedemann, Kevin Burns, Jeffery Capeci, Robert Hall, Tom Long, Eric Paradis, James Ritchie, Deborra Zukowski

Absent: George Guidera

Also Present: Mary Ann Jacob, Michelle Embree Ku, two member of the public and one member of the press

VOTER COMMENTS: Al Cramer, 5 Partridge Lane – He has served on 2 charter revision commissions. The reasoning for the current BOE was that there was a 6 member board which no political party could occupy more than 3 seats. For years there were 3 Republicans and 3 Demarcates. There should be an odd number on the BOE to prevent grid lock. The commission reviewed 5, 7 or 9 members and decided on 7. They found with a 6 member board, they were being elected, not by the election process but basically by the appointed process. In essence the unaffiliated voters in town were casting meaningless votes. The desire is to have candidates win seats on the BOE. They found CT general statue 9-167A which permits by minority representation; a political party could obtain 5 seats on the BOE. When you have 4 seats available, under that statue, any political party could win three seats. He is concerned about the notion that the perhaps the commission might consider moving to a 4/3 program, where only 4 members of any political party could sit on the board at any one time. You may have a bonified election the first time but the elections to follow will be predetermined. He hopes that the commission will retain 9-167A. There are a lot of unaffiliated voters in town and their vote should count.

Mike Solaris, 11 Country Squire Lane – Asked for the commission to adjust the changes made at the last charter revision, specifically the binding vote. What that does is create a situation where 2/3 of our budget is unapproved but the contingency is off the table. Put the ownis on the local government to put together a budget and let the voters vote on it.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Arlene Miles, Clerk