

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

The Charter Revision Commission held a special meeting on Wednesday February 4, 2015 in the lower conference room at Town Hall South, 3 Main Street, Newtown, CT. Chairman Jeff Capeci called the meeting to order at 7:38pm.

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

VOTER COMMENTS: NONE

MINUTES: Mr. Wiedemann moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of 1/5/15. Mr. Long seconded, motion unanimously approved.

COMMUNICATIONS – Mr. Capeci received communications from Jim Juliano, the chair of the Democratic Town Committee (Attachment A), encouraging the CRC to clarify the meaning of “bare majority” representation on the BOE and restore the intended balance where no one party may have more than 4 members on the 7 member board.

NEW BUSINESS

Charter Chapters 2,3 and 4 Elections and Elective Offices; Board of Selectman; Appointive Boards – Changes proposed by the Reorganization and the Board Composition Working Groups affecting sections chapters 1-3 will be considered by the full Commission – Mr. Capeci presented for the Board Composition review group’s methods on how they moved forward with the appointed boards and commissions (Attachment B). Mr. Capeci then presented the work the group has completed (Attachment C). The question came up if the Lake Zoar and Lake Lillinonah Authorities should be in the charter because it consists of all the towns that boarder the lakes. The charter is the governance of a given town. It is a power of the Board of Selectman to appoint representatives to regional bodies that are of interest of the town. Since it is not solely an Authority of Newtown, then how can its duties be in the Charter. The Health District is different because it was designed by Newtown and the other towns buy into it. The town has to be part of a health district regardless if it is your own or part of a district.

Ms. Zukowski raised concern about having the Self Funded Health Insurance Fund Committee in the charter. This may tie the hands of the town because the town could choose to go back an insurance company and having it in the charter suggests it is permanent. Mr. Guidera explained that this is just providing a steward for the funds.

Cyrenius H. Booth Library Board of Trustees references Special Act No. 108 of the 1931 session of the General Assembly as amended by Special Act No. 110 of the 1959 session of the General Assembly (Attachment D). The number of members has been reduced to 16 members per the request of the trustees. Mr. Capeci will try to get Mr. Geckle and other members of the board of trustees in for a deeper look at the number of members that makes sense.

Kevin Burns presented the reorganizations proposed changed (Attachment E).

Mr. Capeci explained that they need to come up with one document. There are items in the reorganization group’s work that belong with the board compensation group’s work but there are also things that should stand alone. Next time they meet, they will decide how all those common pieces will

look. Also at the next meeting they will decide what of the 11 boards and commissions that board composition work group proposed belong in the charter and come up with language for them.

Charter Writing Style Standards – This refers to the style of how the document will appear and will be tabled for the next weekend.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Charter Property Disposition Section 7-90 - Not discussed

VOTER COMMENT - NONE

ANNOUNCEMENTS – NONE

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:14pm

Respectfully Submitted, Arlene Miles, Clerk