

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

The Charter Revision Commission held a meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 in the lower conference room at Town Hall South, 3 Main Street, Newtown, CT. Chairman Jeff Capeci called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Present: Kevin Burns, Jeffery Capeci, Tom Long, Dan Wiedemann, Eric Paradis, James Ritchie, Robert Hall, Deborra Zukowski, George Guidera (7:40)

VOTER COMMENTS: NONE

MINUTES: Mr. Paradis moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of 2/5/15. Mr. Wiedemann seconded, motion unanimously approved.

COMMUNICATIONS – Mr. Capeci shared the minutes from the Edmond Town Hall Board of Manages approving the wording in the Town of Newtown Charter to include election of Vice-Chair position for use in absence of Chair (Attachment A).

UNFINISHED 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 – There are two bodies working, the Reorganization group and the Board Composition group. Both had presented at the previous meeting. The intention is to marry the work done by both to create one useable document.

The Commission started with the proposed reorganization of the Table of Contents and began populating chapter two (Attachment B). The wording is not final.

The first question came up is if Roberts Rules should be included in the general provisions. It was suggested that there needs to be a set of rules that a committee fairly listens to the public, to one another.

Eligibility - Mr. Hall will research whether a state statute exists that allows for members of the Board of Building Appeals to be non-residents.

One must be a resident elector to serve on a board or commission. It was suggested that there be a glossary in the charter and there a resident elector will be defined.

2-05(d)(1) Seeing no conflict, Justice of the Peace was added as acceptable paid civil office under the government of the United States, the State of Connecticut, for which the First Selectman should be allowed to serve.

2-10 – Minority Representation – This issue pertaining to the BOE will be addressed when changes are considered.

2-15 – Terms and Term Limits - Mr. Wiedeman expressed concern about separating these into a section by itself. One of the main charges is to make the Charter more user-friendly so including term

information with the section describing the board would better achieve that goal. A cross reference was added and the rest of the text was stricken.

2-201(d) – by keeping that in, should the BOS create another appointed board or commission the term limit could not be for more than 4 years.

A special meeting on February 26 will be held to continue the work.

Charter Writing Style Standards – Not Discussed

VOTER COMMENT - NONE

ANNOUNCEMENTS – NONE

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:19pm

Respectfully Submitted, Arlene Miles, Clerk