

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

The Charter Revision Commission held a meeting on Wednesday May 27, 2015 in the Court Room at Edmond Town Hall, 45 Main Street, Newtown, CT. Chairman Jeff Capeci called the meeting to order at 7:35pm.

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

VOTER COMMENTS: None

MINUTES: Mr. Ritchie moved to accept the minutes from the 5/13/15 meeting as presented Mr. Guidera seconded, motion unanimously approved.

COMMUNICATIONS – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

WORKING DRAFT OF CHARTER IS ATTACHED (Attachment A)

Library Board of Trustees – The question if there should be flexibility given to the Board or set a number of trustees. The First Selectman appoints 8 people so if there were 16 members that would mean 8 at large members as well. The Board is also requesting 2 four year terms. It was also discussed if their term limits should not be in the charter but in their bi-laws. By an informal show of hands 5 were in favor of setting term limits in the charter and 4 were not. It will be left in the charter for two terms.

Someone's term that is filling a vacancy was also of concern. Is filling the vacancy in the middle of a term considered a fill term. A vacancy term of less than year shall not consist as a term. It was decided that a Trustee term limit shall be 2 terms. And added Trustee shall serve no more than two terms. In no event may any trustee serve more than eight years on the Board in succession. Any trustee having served for eight years in succession on said Board shall be ineligible for reappointment for two years after last serving on said Board. This is the same language that will be used for the Board of Ethics.

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 – Chapter 2, there were a few items that were discussed at the committee level that has not been discussed at the commission level. They created section 2-110 First Selectman, taking it out of the Board of Selectmen. It was agreed that they would be added.

Charter Property Disposition Sections; 7-90 and 7-90D – Mr. Hall provided a revised document (Attachment B).

- In 7-93, the first paragraph expressed that it should be for a specific purpose.
- Having the Legislative Council act in a specific amount of time which will be 180 days.
- 7-94 sale or disposition of real property constituting open space provides restrictions on buying; it should be the same as selling it. The process needs to take place. This is only for open space that meets the criteria to be available for sale, which is 5 acres or less and that have been around for over 10 years.
- Mr. Hall added language for deed restrictions and the highest qualified bid. The buyers binding commitment helps to stop someone of purchasing property for a specific purpose and then deciding that that purpose will not work for them.

- Transparency of the private is handled at the beginning of the process in 7-94 A, which says if they do it and they do will do it in public meetings. To make it more public notice of availability of said real property for sale is published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the Town of Newtown.
- Page 3, section 7-91 C – The subdivision map will not be filed until title is free and clear of all encumbrances. That will be changed to - free of monetary encumbrances.
- It was in agreement that the draft presented by Mr. Hall with the changes made tonight were acceptable.

VOTER COMMENT - NONE

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Mr. Capeci spoke with Pat Llodra, Mary Ann Jacob, and John Kortze. They are looking for this to finish up by early July. Sensing that the town meeting will be going away, in the budget process, capital items can be voted on at the same time as the budget. Mr. Capeci asked for everyone to think about it.

It was also decided that putting the entire Charter together before forwarding it to legal for review is favorable.

June 16 and 18 will be a special meetings and the 24th meeting will be cancelled.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:02pm

Respectfully Submitted, Arlene Miles, Clerk