

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

The Charter Revision Commission held a meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 in the Lower Court Room, Edmond Town Hall, 45 Main Street, Newtown, CT. Chairman Jeff Capeci called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

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

**Also Present:** Director of Land Use George Benson

**VOTER COMMENTS:**

**MINUTES:** Mr. Richie moved to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing and Special Meeting of 7/15/15. Mr. Weidemann seconded, motion unanimously approved with one abstained (Zukowski).

**COMMUNICATIONS** - Mr. Capeci explained that Attorney Grogins has a September 15<sup>th</sup> deadline to review the proposed charter. The goal is to have a public hearing by the end of the month in order to keep the Commission deadline of October 16<sup>th</sup>.

**NEW BUSINESS      2015 Final Draft After September 8 meeting (Attachment A)**

*Changes to draft charter Chapter 8 Acquisition and Disposition of Real Property*

- Sale or disposition of real property constituting open space was deleted.
- 8-20(g) was added. Mrs. Zukowski asked if instead of using \$5,000 dollars use a parcel size such as a 10<sup>th</sup> of an acre. Mr. Benson articulated that \$20,000 is a better amount to use. Mr. Hall moved that they change the value not exceed to \$20,000, Mrs. Zukowski seconded, motion unanimously approved.

*Consider change request received from Town Officials*

- Attachment B was feedback received from Town Officials concerning the draft
- Section 4-30(a) – Civil Preparedness Director is changed to Emergency Management Director

*Consider other changes possibly proposed by commissioner members*

Mrs. Zukowski and Mr. Ritchie asked for discussion regarding BOE minority representation and changing 6-35(e) from \$500,000 to \$1.5 Million.

- Mrs. Zukowski expressed concerned that if the charter goes out with the minority representation as it is, people will focus on that and will not vote for the proposed charter.
- Mr. Ritchie articulated that what was said at the public hearing was that they wanted a 4/3 BOE.

- Mr. Guidera's articulated that his recollection was that their charge was to clarify the charter. He took that to mean that it would be 4/3 and take out language that would be conflicting.
- Mr. Burns suggested having the Legislative Council put this issue on the ballot.
- Mr. Weidemann said, let the voters vote not because of their party but because they deserve the seat.
- It was decided to leave it the BOE minority representation as is.

Mr. Ritchie moved to increase 6-35(e) from \$500,000 to \$1.5 Million. Mr. Weidemann seconded motion unanimously approved.

- It was suggested to remove the Pension Committee, Self-Funded Health Insurance Fund Commission and Sustainable Energy Commission boards. There was discussion that other Commissions should be removed as well. It was decided to leave them in for the Legislative Council to determine if they should be in the Charter.
- 5-15(a) Emergency Ordinance – Mr. Hall expressed concern over the time that it would take to advertise. It was decided that that language would remain.

*Set date for Public Hearing and next meeting*

A September 30, 2015 Public Hearing meeting date was set.

A tentative meeting to discuss the Attorney's review if needed was set on September 22, 2015

VOTER COMMENT - NONE

ANNOUNCEMENTS – NONE

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:06pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Arlene Miles, Clerk