

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE CHARTER REVISION  
COMMISSION

The Charter Revision Commission held a special meeting on Thursday, November 12, 2015 in the Old Court Room at Edmond Town Hall, 45 Main Street, Newtown, CT. Vice Chair Bob Hall called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

PRESENT: Jeff Capeci(7:15), Tom Long, Dan Wiedemann, Eric Paradis, Kevin Burns, George Guidera, Deborra Zukowski, Jim Ritchie, Bob Hall

**Also:** Mary Ann Jacob, Tony Filiato, Dan Honan, Neil Chaudhary, Ryan Knapp, Bob Merola, Eve Bermudez(7:40pm), Michelle Ku, Jim Gaston and 3 members of the public

**Public Participation** – Jim Gaston, 18 Main Street –The voters originally voted for no more than 4 from any one party at the last charter revision concerning the BOE. He asked to let the voters make the decision. Town Department – if that language is not adjusted, Newtown Hook and Ladder would be a department so they would have to pay for the construction of their building prevailing wage. If you are going to say that the Board of Selectman cannot be an employee of the town, it should also apply to the Legislative Council, if it is done at all it should be for all. Volunteer fire personnel receive a stipend and get workers compensation so they could be considered employees and would not allow them to serve on any board.

Michelle Ku, 28 Platts Hill Road, - Asked that they consider the 4/3 balance honoring the voters choice.

Maureen Crick, 16 Tamarak Road – Echo’s what Ms. Ku had said.

Kristen, 15 Field Stone Drive – Currently what we have is a 5/2 minority representation for the Board of Education but would like 4/3 as an option.

Ross Carley, 66 Currituck Road – His opinion is the LC is requesting a 4/3 and would like to see it go that way and put it to the voters to make the right decision.

***Legislative Council recommendation for changes to the draft charter***

- 2-35 – Was left as is. Typically that is what is done today. By making it by party it would put a burden on the board.
- 2-45 – Town Clerks salary shall be set from time to time – was left alone. This language came from the Town Attorney and gives the LC the ability to write an ordinance to define what that is.

- 2-105(d)(8) 80 is in the current charter which is a reasonable number and there was no compelling reason to change it with this charter.
- 2-115(d)(3) George Guidera moved to put a period after Council and strike the rest of the line, Dan Weidemann seconded. Motion fails 3 Yes (Guidera, Long, Weidemann) 5 No (Ritchie, Paradis, Capeci, Zukowski, Hall, Burns)
- 2-205(b)(2) It is in the ordinance that the term is two years. They can remove it but it will remain two years until the ordinance is changed. Mary Ann Jacob explained that it stood out as an exemption. It will remain as is.
- 2-210 – The rule is stated in 2-15(d) – except for Building Appeals Board
- 4-10 – struck “only” after term on line 1061
- 4-15 – struck “only” after term on line 1079
- There is also an issue because the Tax Collector has a term but they are an employee. It was taken out of the Building Inspector but at this late date, the research can’t be done. It is in the current charter and will not be changed.
- 6-15(c)(3) – changed “prepare” to “approve”.
- The definition of a town body is a concern. The original charter doesn’t say defined here in. By putting in defined herein you have freedom in your ordinance do whatever you wanted to do. That included minority representation.
- Is the Board of Fire Commissioners a town body? At the LC meeting they asked Town Attorney if this would affect Newtown Hook and Ladder and he indicated it would not.
- 3-10(b)(1) – If the Registrars do not put forward revised district lines, then the current lines will remain.
- 5-15(a) 2/3 has been removed and eight has replaced it. If 8 members are present they all have to vote in the affirmative. If 2/3 remained then it would be 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of members present.
- 2-10 – Minority Representation – Ms. Jacob explained that they need to give the voters a choice. Mr. Chaudhry explained that he personally thinks that 5/2 is the better way to go. If this is a stand alone piece he would vote against 4/3. It makes sense to give it to the town to make the decision. This is a hot button topic and is concerned that the entire charter will be rejected if it is not a standalone vote. Ms. Jacob explained that without pulling this out, it will be a polarizing issue and you have to decide if you want to do this or not. The new council has to lead the charge and educate the voters. Mr. Burns moved accept the LC recommendation as it was presented to the CRC, allowing a stand alone option that would make an exception to minority representation for the Board of Education. Ms. Zukowski seconded. Mr. Guidera asked if there is a guarantee that this goes to a separate vote on the ballot. There is no guarantee because the new Council that goes in on December 1 would ultimately decide. Motion passed 5 Yes (Guidera, Burns, Paradis, Zukowski, Ritchie) to 4 No (Wiedemann, Long, Hall, Capeci)
- 2-115(h) last sentence was stricken
- 2-225(b)(3) Term limits were stricken

- 2-260(a) Added “The Public Building and Site Commission may decline the supervision of a project when it determines that the public interest would be served by assigning supervision to one or more qualified entities.”
- 2-280 –Mr. Paradis moved to leave this section as it is, Ms. Zukowski seconded. Motion passes 8 yes to 1 No (Hall).
- 6-02 –Mr. Ritchie moved to strike section 6-02, Mr. Paradis seconded. Motion passes 8 Yes to 1 No(Guidera)
- 6-25(b)(2)(i) – Ms. Jacob explained that the majority of the LC thought that adding money back would require a super majority. Mr. Hall moved to reduce any item by majority by at least 6 affirmative votes to increase any item by 8 affirmative votes. Mr. Wiedemann seconded. Motion passes 5 yes (Capeci, Wiedemann, Long, Guidera, Hall) 4 No (Zukowski, Ritchie, Paradis, Burns)
- 6-35(a) - Ms. Zukowski moved to remove “have an opportunity after” shall making it mandatory, Mr. Burns seconded. Motion unanimously approved.
- 6-35(h) – the LC recommended striking that entire section. The Finance Director is not going to make a request for an emergency appropriation it would be the BOS or the BOE. Instead of striking the section they changed shall to may.
- 9-05(a) – after as necessary or appropriate end sentence and strike the rest of it.
- 9-05(b) – The LC requested 120 days, not 60. Added no more than 120
- 10-02(b) added the word final before the word report.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Arlene Miles, Clerk