

Ryan Knapp, Chair
Phil Carroll, Vice Chair
Neil Chaudhary
Joe Girgasky
Mary Ann Jacob
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TOWN OF NEWTOWN

Draft Minutes of the Legislative Ordinance Committee Meeting.

The Ordinance Committee met on Wednesday September 30th, 2015 in Meeting Room 1 of the Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Lane, Newtown. Committee Chairman Ryan Knapp called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm.

Present: Ms Jacob, Mr. Carroll, Ms. Bermudez Mr. Chaudhary and Mr. Knapp.
Absent: Mr. Girgasky

Also in attendance: David Dobin and David Grogins

MINUTES: Ms. Jacob motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting of 9/24/2015. Mr. Chaudhary seconded.

Mr. Knapp noted that there was a mistake on the 9/24 minutes, incorrectly listing Mr. Girgasky as absent when it should have read Mr. Carroll. With that change he called the question. Three in favor, two abstentions (Mr. Carroll, Ms. Bermudez).

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Old Business

Review of purchasing regulations.

Mr. Knapp thanked the town attorneys for attending.

Ms. Jacob asked how in their interpretation the ordinance applied to the BOE?

Mr. Grogins explained CGS 10-222 deals with money expended by the BOE, but Home Rule Act allows towns to regulate procedures by which the govern. The Charter reflects on procedure of purchases and not what will be purchased.

There was concern that the current language maybe in conflict with the town Charter. 350-1(B) is not what is necessarily followed in practice.

In Mr. Grogins opinion 10-222 does not conflict with the charter under home rule. There may be an issue in having 350-1(B) included and should possibly should reference the charter.

There was discussion of striking 350-1(B) and letting the charter dictate how this applies to the BOE. It was noted that the BOE has waived purchasing regulations in the past.

Mr. Knapp questioned how this would impacted a possible future purchasing agent and shared services.

Mr. Chaudhary had ideas for language that could address a purchasing agent.

Mr. Grogins said that amending it may cause charter issues and complicate bid contests.

Ms. Jacob questioned if we should add purchasing agent in a definitions section

Mr. Grogins said that the town purchasing authority would still have to sign off on purchases if an agent was added.

Ms. Jacob would support eliminating 350-1(B).

Mr. Grogins noted that based on their discussions Fred Hurley thinks 350-11 should say "below" rather than "exceeding." The group agreed.

Mr. Knapp would like to broaden the reference to the charter rather than to a specific section so this does not become outdated if the charter is revised.

Mr. Dobin will incorporate the following changes:

- Include noted changes recommended from the Finance Director

- Strike specific charter section
- Strike "except in the case of the BOE"
- Strike 350-1(B)
- 350-9 A(2) will have the language cleaned up

Mr. Chaudhary moved to accept the purchasing regulations with the recommended changes. Mr. Carroll seconded. All in favor (5-0)

Review and recommendation regarding a possible new alarm ordinance per the charge set forth by the Legislative Council on February 18, 2015.

Mr. Grogins left the meeting as Mr. Dobin has been handling this topic.

The group went line by line through his recommended changes.

On registration, the group discussed several scenarios and settled on that they would like to encourage enrolment and not charge people to register again if they enroll early, so applicants who register in the new system in the initial grace period will not pay a new registration fee, and come the first Registration Year will only pay the \$5 renewal fee.

Duress alarm will be added to the definitions as another word for panic alarm.

There was discussion of included duties of the installation and monitoring company. The group decided to strike the entire section because the relationship is with the user and we really have no authority over alarm companies. We cannot reasonably expect alarm companies to check the local ordinances for every alarm they install.

Mr. Knapp asked that having a system that meets AISC standards be moved to duties of the alarm user.

The group discussed adding an appeals procedure to suspension of response. Since that is such an extreme case and the user has already had an opportunity to go before the Police Commission and there is a process in place for reinstatement. This is not an appeal of a fine but an appeal of an action.

Mr. Chaudhary noted that there is no obligation to respond, only an expectation.

Mr. Knapp did not support striking citations and discussed the use of that section with Mr. Dobin. Mr. Dobin will circle back with the Chief.

Mr. Dobin will make changes as discussed and return it to the Ordinance Committee by Friday mid day.

The Committee discussed a possible short meeting before the next council meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Ms. Jacob motioned to adjourn at 9:45pm. Ms. Bermudez seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ryan W. Knapp
Ordinance Committee Chairman