

SAUGUS CHARTER COMMISSION
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
OF
April 2, 2009

The fifty-ninth meeting of the Saugus Charter Commission was held on Thursday, April 2, 2009. The meeting was held in the Town Hall Auditorium. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Peter Manoogian, at 7:30 P.M.

STEP 8: REDESIGN

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Six members of the nine member committee were present at roll call: Cam Cicolini, Karen Cote, Eugene Decareau, Albert W. Diotte, Jr., Joan Fowler, and Peter Manoogian, Sr.

The Chairman noted that there were more than enough for a quorum, and that Ms. Panetta and Mr. Stewart would be late.

Karla J. de Steuben arrived at 7:31 P.M.
Thomas Stewart arrived at 7:47 P.M.
Debra Panetta arrived at 8:40 P.M.

The Chairman stated that invited guests, Selectman Kelleher and Janice Jarosz would be present at the meeting. He noted that Mr. Curran had drafted some language for the license commission, consistent with Members discussions.

Mr. Manoogian recapped the Commissions progress: Members have completed the Attorney General's letter, the School Committee letter, have made their decision on prohibitions and ethics, and their next topic is the licensing board. He went on to state that the goal for the evening is to have everything done, so that Mr. Curran can present something by Monday that will reflect all these changes. Members will have it to review and be ready for discussion at the next meeting.

READING OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (March 26, 2009)

Minutes were distributed to all Commission Members to review before the next Meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES (March 19, 2009)

Ms. Cicolini made a motion to accept the minutes of March 19, 2009.

The Chairman seconded the motion.

The motion passed **7-0**

PUBLIC FORUM

- Arthur Grabowski, 66 Denver Street, Saugus, Town Meeting Member, Precinct 8:
Mr. Grabowski expressed his favor of citizen input, stating his belief that it is a right, not a privilege. He also spoke in favor of the conflict of interest provision.
Mr. Grabowski stated that he thinks the Members are on the right track for the licensing board, believing that it should be taken out of politics.

The Chairman invited Mr. Grabowski to stay and hear what both Mr. Kelleher and Ms. Jarosz have to say about that same subject.

- Al DiNardo , 199 Essex Street, Saugus, Town Meeting Member, Precinct 4:
Mr. DiNardo spoke in favor of setting policy outside the manager's office. He also expressed his opinion that the proposed charter would improve the mechanism of the town's government. He went on to say that we need a change, we've had a "fiscal 911," and it's time to make sure it doesn't happen again.

The Chairman read the language provided by Mr. Curran for the licensing board as follows:
"The board of license commissioners shall consist of the fire chief and the police chief, who shall serve by virtue of their office, and three voters appointed by the select board for terms of three years each so arranged that the term of any such member shall expire each year. Members of the select board shall be eligible for appointment to the license board. No person while a member of the board of license commissioners shall have any connection, directly or indirectly, with any business or other activity that requires the issuance of a license, or is otherwise regulated by the licensing board in any manner."

- Invited guest, Selectman Kelleher:
Mr. Kelleher expressed his opinion that issuing licenses should remain with the Board of Selectmen. He did agree, however, that the above language is better than an appointed board. He noted that although he does seek counsel from the Police Chief and Fire Chief, he still votes his own mind.
He went on to express his opinion that a separate traffic commission should be formed to free up the select board's time.
- Invited guest Janice Jarosz:
Ms. Jarosz referred to her previous letter in favor of leaving the licensing authority with the Selectmen. However, after speaking with many Saugonians, and looking at other communities, she now agrees with a separate licensing commission.
She went on to state that a separate licensing commission would allow the selectmen to serve in a more effective manner, and be free to become the policy makers needed by the town.
In reference to the above language, Ms. Jarosz stated that the job descriptions for both the police and fire chiefs would have to be re-written, and she did not believe that the police chief and fire chief should be voting.
She ended by saying that looking at the entire proposal, most of the people want this change, and want the charter proposal to pass.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Revisions to Preliminary Report**
 - **Licensing Board**
Members began discussion on licensing board and the language that Mr. Curran had provided. Mr. Diotte suggested having alternates, in the event that a member of the board should have a conflict and not be able to vote.

Mr. Diotte made a motion to accept the proposed language, by Mr. Curran, with the additional language to provide for two alternate members, in the event that there is a conflict. The Chairman seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Cam Cicolini	Yes	Karla de Steuben	Yes	Peter Manoogian	Yes
Karen Cote	Yes	Albert Diotte	Yes	Debra Panetta	Yes
Eugene Decareau	No	Joan Fowler	Yes	Thomas Stewart	Yes

The motion passed **8-1**

○ **Member observations**

▪ **Select Board Transition**

The Chairman noted that Mr. Curran has drafted language for the select board transition, emailed to Members. Mr. Manoogian read the language.

- The Chairman asked Mr. Curran to draft transitional language for the licensing board.

▪ **Items in minutes**

- Section 2-4, add language that specifies no compensation for assembly, select board, or school committee.

Recess was called at 9:30 PM

Meeting resumed at 9:38 PM

▪ **Melanson & Heath comments**

Mr. Manoogian referred to the letter from Frank Biron, Melanson & Heath auditor, dated 2/18/09. Members discussed Mr. Biron's comments on Section 9-5 (g). Mr. Curran has revised language.

▪ **Other Revisions**

- Special Acts disposition will provided next week
- Include language to prohibit Members of the Charter Commission from obtaining a paid position with the Town for one year.
- Language for all polling hours to be 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM
- Language to specify that you must be a resident to serve on a multiple member body.
- Section 4-2, Page 17, include language to "grandfather" existing Superintendent of Public Works.

This concluded Members revisions. Mr. Curran will email the revised Charter to Members by Monday. The Chairman asked Members to print out their own copies and begin reviewing it for the next Meeting.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

The Chairman pointed out that Mr. Curran had provided him with examples of final reports from other towns / cities. He stated that he would like to get some help deciding on the format for their final report.

Ms. de Steuben suggested that, after Member’s input, a sub-committee could be formed.

The Chairman asked Mr. Curran what the statute requires to be included in the final report.

Mr. Curran responded that a comparison of the existing charter and proposed charter, a summary of the proposed charter highlighting the major differences, and any other comments that the Commission deems necessary or desirable.

The Chairman said that he would come up with a form that everyone could fill in, and summarize in the final report.

- **Next meeting – April 9th**

The Chairman noted that the April 9th meeting has been posted, but there are no additional meetings posted after that.

PUBLIC FORUM

Arthur Grabowski, 66 Denver Street, Saugus, spoke again. He questioned whether or not the Police or Fire Chief may, in the future, expect additional compensation to serve on the Licensing Board. Members agreed to include language.

He went on to say that he believes the proposed charter, with the finance provisions, would prevent another huge deficit going undetected for years.

Mr. Grabowski discussed any additional costs to the town that the proposed charter may cause, hoping that it would not discourage voters.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Mr. Decareau noted that there were no changes at this time

COMMITTEE REPORT

None at this time.

MEMBERS ANNOUNCEMENTS / MOTIONS

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Cote made a motion to adjourn at 10:28 PM.

The Chairman seconded the motion.

The motion passed **9-0**

APPROVED ON _____

SUBMITTED BY _____

Changes this Meeting:

- **Licensing Board - Accept the proposed language, by Mr. Curran, with the additional language to provide for two alternate members, in the event that there is a conflict.**
- **Draft transitional language for the licensing board.**
- **Section 2-4, add language that specifies no compensation for assembly, select board, or school committee.**
- **Special Acts disposition**
- **Include language to prohibit Members of the Charter Commission from obtaining a paid position with the Town for one year.**
- **Language for all polling hours to be 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM**
- **Language to specify that you must be a resident to serve on a multiple member body.**
- **Section 4-2, Page 17, include language to “grandfather” existing Superintendent of Public Works.**
- **Include language that Police / Fire Chief will not receive additional compensation for serving on the licensing board.**