

**Seekonk Town Charter Committee**  
**Friday, August 9, 2017**  
**Selectmen's Meeting Room**  
**Town Hall, 100 Peck Street, Seekonk, MA**

Present: Bob Richardson, Beth Eklund, John Alves, David Saad, Joyce Leven

Absent: David Sullivan, Kyle Laprade

Called to order: 1:15

September 8 – Town Administrator will be present

Plan for evening meetings for the public to attend. We may have articles to put on the November town meeting for the charter. Town meeting scheduled for November 13. The warrant should be open October 1. We should be done by September.

We are postponing the August 25<sup>th</sup> meeting and move to September 1 and September 8.

September 1 will be about actions taken. September 8 will be to make the TA aware of changes.

David Saad – concerned about the state of the Board of Selectman.

Minutes from 7/28 – approved All in favor

**Uxbridge** favorite.

Board of selectman section was strong. Their BOS has more power than ours. Moved away from micromanaging.

Define – Town Manager to Town Administrator. Beth felt they are the same. What is the legal requirement? Our formal government is we have a open town meeting, board of selectmen. The opportunity to adjust the name from Administrator to Manager or make the definition more clear should be reviewed.

How do we deal with the town administrator having authority over these departments?

Town Administrator has the day-to-day running of the Town Hall. How you write it up is the question. Every Department must report to TA so out of respect to the process the TA is aware

of all personnel issues. The charter now outlines what we look for and require for his job. We are looking at his job responsibilities. We will discuss with TA September 8. Chairman of each committee now has the right to oversee personnel issues. Should this change? We should also consider having conversations with Chairman's about their perspective.

Beth is going to forward the Arlington DOR and have a one on one conversation with Arlene Bosco.

#### Article 2 Section 2 – Presiding officer

Addition – pro tempore – this person must be a Seekonk resident.

Section 3 – Assistant Town Clerk must be a resident. This is a union position. We will find out who the union president is.

ATC - can we change this to be elected or appointed but with a residency requirement?

#### Section 4 – General Powers

Should we explain what a warrant is? Refer to Uxbridge. Article 2, Section 6 & 7. We will narrow the timelines down because we would like more.

Whenever anyone has a warrant article the town must be provided with sufficient information in a period of time that is reasonable.

We want justification of recommended or not recommended from BOS and Finance.

Have finance committee put out a booklet to every resident about the warrant articles and finance.

#### Section 5 – Annual meeting

Have the final warrant articles available to the voters at least \_\_\_\_ days in advance of the town meeting. This should be a question for Shawn.

Day vs. date should be specific.

Keep the warrant at 14 days?

The Selectmen have to communicate to the townspeople long before they arrive at the meeting. Should be mailed to everyone on the census. Plan to mail first year; second year; email and mail; third year, email.

Section 7 -

Article Three – Elections

Section 2 – you should be able to be appointed and elected in order to serve dual roles as long as there is no conflict of interest. Ad hoc should also be allowed to be elected

Page 8 – Section 4

Change 15% to 5%.

Review Recall of Elective Officers – change last sentence from 30% to 10%

Annual Town Election – what would happen in the event of a tie? Should we hold a primary election?

Defer to the BOS, SB, FC and make it a one year term.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm