

## **Town of Sturbridge**

### **Charter Review Committee**

#### Meeting Minutes, March 2, 2016

Meeting convened at 6:40 pm in Town Hall by Chairperson William Haggerty. Present: William Haggerty (WH), Bruce Boyson (BB), Sandra Gibson-Quigley (SG-Q) and Larry Morrison (LM).

BB moved, SG-Q seconded a motion to accept the minutes of February 25, 2016, as submitted. Passed 4-0.

The Committee reviewed the accumulating master collation of previously agreed to revisions, which is a computer-assisted, tedious manual process undertaken by WH, and SG-Q noted a small number of miscues. They were corrected.

Having completed its line-by-line re-review through Section 4-5 at its February 25, 2016, meeting, the Committee resumed at Section 4-6. Discussion dwelled on establishing consistent language with respect to compensation, if any, conferred on members of boards, committees and commissions, both elected and appointed. It was decided to seek the viewpoint of the Town Administrator and the Town Clerk as to applicable state statutes or other relevant authority, if such exist, and then to take the matter under the Committee's advisement in the pursuit of a final recommendation.

The Committee studied and discussed the Town Administrator's/LM's email chain dated February 2, 2016, and February 4, 2016, with respect to Sections 5-4 and 6-2, on which Sections BB had drafted language for eventual Committee discussion. The Committee composed a text for Section 5-4, which will be made evident, publicly, in keeping with the 7<sup>th</sup> paragraph of the minutes dated January 20, 2016.

WH provided an email that he received from the Town Administrator on March 2, 2016, with respect to a statute known as the "Strong Fire Chief Law." This topic arose when the Sturbridge Fire Chief referred to it in his remarks to the Committee at its February 3, 2016, meeting. The email referenced a document from the Town Counsel, which was unknown to the Committee. Before the Committee took further action, and mindful as it was of BB's careful speculation that a Home Rule factor involving a default as to the applicability of the "Strong Fire Chief Law" may be applicable, WH stated that he would seek a copy of the Town Counsel's document for Committee reference.

The Committee scheduled its next several meetings, taking into account the remainder and the sequence of its work.

SG-Q moved, BB seconded a motion to adjourn. Passed 4-0 at 9:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Morrison, Clerk

