

Charter Committee Meeting
DRAFT NOTES
January 8, 2014

Present: Cliff Wells, John Manter, Tammy Perry, Pat Rice, and Joan Perkins.

Review Notes from Last Meeting

Pat questioned the vagueness of 00.04.03.07. The group decided to replace “this” in the first sentence with “the School Committee has not been establishing their compensation”.

Review of Designated Charter Sections

00.07 Financial Procedures

00.07.03: The deadlines for budget submission should be changed to 75 days for submission to the budget officer and 60 days for the Town Manager to submit it to the Council. The first sentence stating “shall submit recommendations” should be changed to “shall submit Municipal Budget recommendations” and “submit to the Council a budget” should be changed to “submit to the Council a Municipal” and the last sentence in that paragraph should also say “Municipal Budget”. In the bulleted item that references the itemized statement that shall be included in the budget, a change should be made to “with comparative statements in parallel columns of estimated expenditures for the current year and actual expenditures for the next fiscal year” with the rest of that statement unchanged. In the next bulleted item, a similar change should be made by adding “in parallel columns of proposed and actual revenues to date for the current year and estimated revenues for the next fiscal year”.

00.07.02 (revisited): After “...appointed by the Town Council” add “The Budget Committee shall meet at least quarterly throughout the fiscal year to review the fiscal status as it relates to income and expenditures. The Budget Committee shall be present at the annual Town Meeting and at any Special Town Meeting having a financial impact on the town.”

The group bounced between 00.07 Financial Procedures and 00.09 Town Meeting. There was a lot of discussion on the Town Meeting. Members discussed how the Town Meeting may inhibit the budget process, and also ways that residents could increase the budget or override motions made by the Town Council after the public hearing.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 5. The group decided to invite the Town Attorney to that meeting, and provide him with a list ahead of time of some of their specific questions. Tammy will put together a list to send to the attorney of some of the specific questions, a review of the discussion on allowing votes to increase budgets and/or override motions made by the Town Council after the public hearing, and how much deviation can we have with our amendments.

Tammy updated the group on the Board of Appeals, stating that we currently have four members.