

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

Minutes of Regular Meeting

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

Commissioners present: Chairman Joseph Calsetta, Norman Boucher, Bill Hamel, Elizabeth Gannuscio, Carl Schiessl, Bob Glamuzina, Sara LeMaster, Dave Vaicunas, George Austin and Lacinda Van Gieson

Commissioners absent: Brian Levy, Dave Ragon and Shirley King

- 1) **Call to Order** – Chairman Calsetta called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.
- 2) **Pledge of Allegiance** – The Pledge of Allegiance was not observed because there is no flag in the second floor break room.
- 3) **Public Input** –

Doug Glazier, Board of Finance Chairman – Mr. Glazier distributed a proposed revision to Section 808 (“Unauthorized Expenditures”). He explained that he added a sentence that requires approval by the Board of Finance or any legislative acts of the Ct General Statutes. He further explained that it was a legislative act that allowed the Police Commission to give the Chief a raise without additional authorization.

- 4) **Approval of the minutes for the January 20, 2015 regular meeting.**

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the January 20, 2015 regular meeting.

Norman Boucher

Seconded by George Austin

All in Favor

Motion Passed

- 5) **Correspondence** – None.
- 6) **New Business** – None.
- 7) **New Business** –
 - a) **Discuss BOF Chairman Glazier’s updated proposal of 805 A, B, and C** –
Commissioner Schiessl asked that the discussion of 805 be tabled until the next meeting since he was not at the January 20 meeting and did not get a chance to review the proposal that was distributed and reviewed.
 - b) **Discuss Commissioner Glamuzina’s review of Section 808** –
Commissioner Glamuzina distributed his proposal for revising Section 808. After a lengthy discussion, it was suggested that the last sentence regarding prosecution of violators be removed because the Town has no authority to prosecute anyone for any reason.

Chairman Calsetta suggested that the Public Hearing that the Commission originally planned to hold on February 17 be postponed because there is still more work to be done. The February 17 meeting will be a regular meeting.

Chairman Calsetta also clarified that once the Commission has completed their review and puts forth their proposal of the revised Charter, it still needs to be reviewed by the Board of Selectmen. Chairman Calsetta added that he believes the Board of Selectmen will then have the Charter reviewed by an Attorney before it is presented to and voted on by the Town.
 - c) **Bill Hamel’s discussion with Town Attorney** –
Bill Hamel had a discussion with our Town Attorney to better understand how much authority the Charter holds in governing our Town. He explained that there are a lot of laws and regulations

out there and that they have their own order of precedence. Our State Statutes don't exist in isolation. For example, the Special Act of the Legislature from 1947 that created the Police Department in Windsor Locks takes precedence over the generic law in the State Statute that dictates the number of members the Police Commission must have. In addition, there are multiple other Acts and Laws that also apply and may take precedence over a State Statute. The State of CT revised its Constitution in the 1960's which gave towns the authority to have Charters which allows Towns to regulate their government the way they want. It is our Charter that states that we can have a six member Police Commission.

8) **Public Input (Agenda Items Only) – None.**

9) **Commissioners Comments –** Chairman Calsetta asked the recording secretary to email copies of all of the documents discussed at tonight's meeting to all members of the Charter Commission. Doug Glazier is going to email the recording secretary a letter from the Town Attorney about the Police Commission's authority to change the Chief's contract, and Chairman Calsetta is going to provide an updated copy of Bill Hamel's version of Section 805, both of which are to be added to the documents being emailed.

10) **Adjournment –**

**MOTION: To adjourn at 7:40 pm.
Dave Vaicunas
Motion Passed Unanimously**

Seconded by George Austin

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Pfaffenbichler
Recording Secretary

Charter Revision Commission Meeting Agenda's and Minutes are available on the town website for downloading.