

Charter Review Committee Meeting Minutes
July 23, 2018 at 6:00PM
Longmeadow Fire Department meeting room
Approved as presented at the 8-22-18 meeting

Attendees: Tass Angelides, Michael Clark, Peter Landon (present by remote devise), David Martel, Arlene Miller, and Larry Starr.

Administrative Support: Stephen Crane (Town Manager) and Paul Pasterczyk (Finance Director) were present and were invited by the committee to participate in the meeting.

Chairman Martel called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

- A. Public Comment: There were no comments offered by the public.
- B. Approval of minutes from the last meeting: Mr. Starr moved and Dr. Angelides seconded a motion to accept the minutes from the June 27, 2018 meeting, including the attached sections about capital planning, as presented. The motion passed.
- C. Article 2-11A(1): A motion was made by Mrs. Miller and seconded by Mr. Clark to amend Article 2-11A (1) as approved above to delete the first sentence of A (1) and replace it with “There shall be a capital planning committee consisting of seven members, six appointed by the select board and one member of and chosen by the finance committee.” The motion passed unanimously.
- D. Chairman Martel asked for consensus on a few future meeting dates. We had already scheduled our next meeting to be held on August 22, 2018. Considering that we are scheduled to present the proposed charter changes to the select board on October 15th, it was the consensus of the members that we should schedule several meetings in September and/or October in advance of the October date. It was agreed to meet on September 11 and 24.
- E. Chairman Martel reviewed a few “open items” from former meetings. The concept of intergovernmental relations was discussed. This refers to language in Article 1 Section 6 (Intergovernmental Relations). Concerns were expressed that the charter should be clear on the chain of command that gives the town manager authority over “all” town employees. In other words, there is and should be a linear relationship between the all town employees and the town manager. It was also suggested that the charter should/could give the town manager the authority to enter into inter municipal agreements without requiring that action to be approved by the select board. Mr. Starr reminded the committee that he would be providing some draft language on the issue regarding the linear relationship of town employees to the town manager. No changes to the current language in this section were offered at this time.
- F. Chairman Martel led the committee through a discussion of Articles 8 and 9.
 1. Section 8-7 (j) Town Bulletin Board: A motion was made by Mr. Clark and seconded by Dr. Angelides to add the words “all as consistent with the Massachusetts open meeting law” following the word web site in the last sentence. The motion passed.
 2. Section 8-8: A motion was made by Mr. Clark and seconded by Dr. Angelides, to delete the words “except for positions covered under the civil service law of the Commonwealth” following the words “multi-member body” in the second sentence of that section. The motion passed.
 3. Article 9: After significant discussion, two motions were made offering changes to Article 9 and they included:
 - a. A motion was made by Mr. Starr and seconded by Mr. Landon to change 9-1 to 1-7 and to delete the words “when this charter takes effect and not specifically or by clear implication repealed in the charter” following the word “force” in the second line. The motion passed.
 - b. A motion was made by Mr. Clark and seconded by Mr. Starr to delete Sections 9-2 through 9-5 in its entirety. The motion passed.

- G. Chairman Martel led the committee through a review of all charter changes that had been approved by the committee from the beginning as were presented in a draft version by Mrs. Miller. The committee reviewed Articles 1-4. The purpose of this exercise is to review and verify all the changes the committee has approved during the revision process to date. Once the committee agrees on the changes it had made, it will either accept all changes as presented or revise changes and vote on a final draft.

- H. Chairman Martel wrapped up the meeting suggesting that we would begin our next meeting (August 22, 2018) with a discussion of Mr. Landon's material regarding the audit committee. We would then continue the review process of the charter changes approved by the committee to date.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Arlene C. Miller