

CHARTER COMMISSION

Robert Russell, Chairman
Michael Kaelin, Vice Chairman



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TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

CHARTER COMMISSION May 18, 2009 Wilton Library, Presidents Room

PRESENT: Robert Russell, Louise Herot, Marilyn Gould, Paul Burnham
Mike Kaelin, Alice Ayers, Toni Lee, Chris Weldon (via cell)
ABSENT: Doug Levene

GUESTS: Warren Serenbetz, Chairman, Board of Finance

Chairman Russell called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. in Meeting Room B.

Timeline - Chairman Russell reminded that this Commission needs to meet between June 3 and June 19 to make any edits to the Draft Charter that are felt to be necessary after the public hearing. A meeting will be held on June 9 at 7:30 pm in Room B at the Town Hall.

Continue Review of Consolidated Charter Document for Content, Consistency, and Clarity

The drafted Articles from each of the three subcommittees was consolidated into one document which was then reviewed line by line with changes made in wording, punctuation and format.

Article VII: Appropriations, Budgets and Finance

Mr. Burnham and Mr. Levene had re-written this Article in an attempt to make it easier to read and understand.

There was a lengthy discussion as to the use of the word "Aspect" to indicate line item in the budget procedures.

Board of Finance line item authority was briefly discussed but a decision will not be made until after hearing any input at the public hearing on June 3.

One change being proposed for the bond process – “The BOS shall refer any proposal for the issuance of bonds to the Board of Finance for its review *not less than fifteen days* in advance of the meeting of the Town Meeting at which such proposal to be considered.” There was discussion about whether a public hearing should be held but it was decided that a Town Meeting is considered the public hearing prior to bonding.

Procedure should the Annual Town Meeting’s Budget not be approved

The Commission discussed the actions that a Reconvened Town Meeting could take in the unlikely event that the budget was rejected as being too low. It was proposed that the Reconvened TM could amend to increase the budget if those in attendance felt that the Revised Budget was still too low. There would then be another voting process where a majority of 15% of the electorate would have to approve the amended budget for it to pass. No vote was taken on this proposal and it was decided to wait until after the public hearing to take action.

Article VII: Appointed Officials

One change includes - “Whether created by resolution, ordinance, statute or Charter, the Board or Committee shall select its own officers unless the resolution ordinance, statute or Charter creating it states otherwise.”

Due to the lateness of the hour, it was decided to finish discussions of the balance of the draft Charter (election process) on Sunday, May 31, 3:00 pm at the Library.

The meeting was then adjourned at 10:07 pm.

Jan Andras
Recording Secretary
Minutes taken from audio recording