

## CHARTER COMMISSION

Robert Russell, Chairman  
Michael Kaelin, Vice Chairman



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## CHARTER COMMISSION May 31, 2009 Wilton Library, Presidents Room

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

Chairman Russell called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Upon motion by Mr. Burnham, the minutes of May 14, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

Regarding the minutes of the May 18, 2009 meeting, there was no inclusion of the discussion of the reconvened town meeting having the authority in increase or decrease budget appropriations. This will be amended at the next meeting.

**Timeline** – The public hearing will be held on Wednesday, 6/3/09, at 7:30 pm in Meeting Room B at the Town Hall. This hearing will be televised. The first charter draft is now available on the Town website – [www.wiltonct.org](http://www.wiltonct.org).

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

Regarding the Board of Finance having line item authority, the draft copy is status quo for the purposes of the public hearing. After receiving input from the hearing, a final decision will be made.

### **C-47 - Elections**

Para. B now reads - *All officers listed in § C-45A, except Registrars of Voters and the First Selectman, shall be elected at each regular town election unless otherwise provided in this Charter or by other law.*

A change was made, at the request of the Registrars, that they run for election in Presidential election years.

Para. F added: *A special election shall be held to fill a vacancy that may occur in the office of the First Selectman. The provisions of § C-52C for filling such vacancy shall apply.*

If nothing is included in the charter about a special election, the BOS members would have the authority to fill any vacancy. In C-52C, it is being added that the Second Selectman shall fill the position of First Selectman until an election can be held.

*A vacancy in the office of First Selectman shall be filled by the Second Selectman until a replacement for that position is determined by a special election, held as soon as reasonably possible after the vacancy occurs, to fill the unexpired term.*

There was some concern about the cost of holding a special election. Mr. Weldon would like to avoid that cost and feels that any selectman who assumes the position of second selectman should understand that it is possible they could be required to hold the full time position of first selectman for the unexpired portion of the term in the event of a vacancy. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided to leave this section as is for the public hearing and then revisit.

#### **C-48 Qualifications, term limits, minority representation**

As per a new law, voters can vote for the full number to be seated on all elected boards, including the Board of Education. Since this is a change for the Board of Education, the following is being added:

Para. D: *The provisions of Section 9-167a of the General Statutes as to minority representation shall apply to all elected boards and to the filling of vacancies. Thus, in the case of all elections to all elected boards including the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education, a party may nominate and an elector may vote for the full number of members to be elected for a single term, provided that the number of members from a single party to be declared elected does not exceed the number that may take office. In the case of the Board of Selectmen, the maximum number that may be of a single party shall be three.*

#### **C-49 Compensation, expenses, levies**

A section in the current Charter noted that members of the Planning & Zoning Commission cannot receive compensation. In order to be all encompassing, the following clause was included in this section: *“No elected official of the Town of Wilton shall receive any salary from the Town of Wilton except such salary as may be payable by reason of such elected office.”*

**C-56 Board of Assessment Appeals** was modified to be consistent with the Ordinance allowing the BOS to appoint additional members whenever necessary, not restricted to years of revaluation.

## **C-67 Transition Election for First Selectman and Board of Selectmen**

Ms. Herot prepared a graphic for demonstration and explained how a transition election would work, as composed in the draft charter by the subcommittee.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Jan Andras  
Recording Secretary  
Minutes taken from audio recording