

BOARD OF SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING FINAL MINUTES

Monday, June 27, 2022

4:00 pm

Via Webex/Phone

A recording of this meeting can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1K3834sDK8k>.

MEMBERS PRESENT: First Selectwoman Brenda L. Kupchick, Selectman Thomas M. Flynn, Selectwoman Nancy E. Lefkowitz

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Steve Mednick, Charter Revision Commission (CRC) Chair Bryan Cafferelli, CRC Vice-Chair Chris Brogan, CRC Secretary Marlene Battista, CRC Commissioner John Mitola, CRC Commissioner John Wynne, CRC Commissioner Pamela Iacono, Town Attorney Jim Baldwin, Chief Administrative Officer Tom Bremer, FairTV

1. CALL TO ORDER

First Selectwoman Kupchick called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

First Selectwoman Kupchick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PRESENTATION FROM CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION, WORKSHOP AND

DELIBERATION - Charter Revision Commission (CRC) Leadership and Attorney Steven Mednick, Counsel to the CRC, will report on the CRC Report and Recommendations for initial Board consideration, review, deliberation and action.

First Selectwoman Kupchick thanked the public for sending emails and participating in CRC meetings for the last nine months. She also thanked the CRC members for their work as well as CRC Counsel/Attorney Steve Mednick and Town Attorney Jim Baldwin. First Selectwoman Kupchick said copies of the presentations being made at today's meeting are posted online.

CRC Chair Bryan Cafferelli made a presentation on the Charter Revision Commission's recommended Charter revisions to the BOS. He gave an overview and introduced members. Mr. Cafferelli reviewed and discussed the executive summary of the CRC results. He discussed supporting appendices such as the Transmittal Letter and Charter Overview and Charter sections.

Attorney Steve Mednick then went through his presentation which included all of the CRC's recommended changes to the current Town Charter; he went through each article of the Charter. Selectwoman Lefkowitz said she appreciated the work that went into this and had previously expressed concern with the makeup of the Commission. She said she asked early on for a preamble statement in the new Charter. She said the civility clause doesn't include a statement of who we are and where we want to go. She said she wants the new Charter to acknowledge a statement on equity and racial inclusion. Selectwoman Lefkowitz said she has 30 pages of notes and questions regarding many aspects of the recommended Charter revisions.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the size of the RTM (Article III). Selectman Flynn asked Chairman Cafferelli to address the size of the RTM; why the Commission came to the conclusion it did and the thought process behind that decision; and what benefits the Committee saw to that conclusion versus leaving it the way it is in terms of size.

Selectman Flynn asked why the Committee thought 30 was the right number for the RTM. He said he didn't know the RTM didn't vote on its own size which he said he doesn't agree with as it should be set by the Charter.

CRC Commissioner Pamela Iacono said decreasing the number of RTM members would increase accountability, allow residents to know their representatives and would be easier to engage in richer dialog at the RTM meetings. Selectwoman Lefkowitz stated for the record that she is opposed to decreasing the membership of the RTM to 30 members. She asked for data regarding the Committee's rationale on reducing the size of the RTM.

First Selectwoman Kupchick said she served on the RTM when there were 50 members. She said our community always felt it could reach out to its local government. She said it might be more intimate for a Town administration to work with smaller body and benefits to that. She said she saw no significant change to how our town operates when the RTM was reduced from 50 to 40. Selectwoman Lefkowitz suggested that the two other Selectpersons be named ex-officio, non-voting members of the RTM in the revised Charter to which Attorney Mednick suggested the BOS make this suggestion to the CRC.

Selectman Flynn said he needed to leave the meeting at 6:30 pm due to a work obligation. The Selectmen had a lengthy discussion on Article IV – Board of Selectpersons and First Selectperson that included review of contracts. Selectman Flynn said he wants to see consistency on BOS and First Selectperson appointments. The Selectmen then discussed Article VI, Appointed Officers and Boards and Commissions. They also reviewed Articles VII-VIII, Appointed Officers and Appointed Boards, Commissions and Departments.

Since Article IX pertains to the budget, it was suggested to wait and add another Special Board of Selectmen meeting prior to the public hearing scheduled for 5:30 pm on Wednesday, June 29, 2022 so Selectman Flynn could be in attendance. All the information on the additional special meeting will be sent out and posted once it is scheduled.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE CRC REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS, IF TIME PERMITS*

***A full public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, June 29, 2022 at 5:30 pm both in person in the 1st floor conference room in Independence Hall, 725 Old Post Road, Fairfield, CT and via Webex.**

There was no public comment at this meeting. There will be a public hearing for public comment on Wednesday, June 29, 2022 at 5:30 pm.

5. ADJOURN

Selectwoman Lefkowitz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 pm. First Selectwoman Kupchick seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Pru O'Brien
Recording Secretary