

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

Special Meeting

May 17, 2022

4:30 – 6:30 PM

Via Webex

A recording of this meeting can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E6LFsRpNSBc>

AGENDA

Members Present: Bryan Cafferelli-Chair, Chris Brogan-Vice Chair, Marlene Battista-Secretary, Pamela Iacono, John Mitola, John Wynne

Members Absent: Jay Gross

Others Present: First Selectwoman Brenda L. Kupchick, Town Librarian Scott Jarzombek, Attorney Steven Mednick, Town Attorney James Baldwin, FairTV

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bryan Cafferelli called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Recording Secretary Pru O'Brien took the roll.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Cafferelli led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Prior to discussing the meeting topics, Chair Cafferelli stated that he had invited First Selectwoman Kupchick into the meeting to speak on topic IV-II regarding budget procedures. First Selectwoman Kupchick has followed all the meetings and has encouraged the other selectpersons to do so. The First Selectwoman appreciates all the work put into this process but also wanted to speak as the person who builds the budget. It takes hours and hours with department heads and that is how the actual document is developed. First Selectwoman Kupchick would like to see the process be easier and not have to repeat her budget for three different meetings. She would like to hold joint meetings with the BOS, BOF and RTM for the initial presentation. The Commissioners asked for clarification and Commissioner Mitola said combined meetings with BOS, BOF and RTM would mean more meetings and less efficiency. Commissioner Mitola suggested joint meetings with the BOS and BOF and then it would go to the RTM after the BOF voted on their budget.

A lengthy discussion followed and the First Selectwoman had to leave the meeting due to scheduling.

IV. MEETING TOPICS:

I. Article IX - 9.16 (formerly 10.17) Board of Library Trustees – Clarification – Scott Jarzombek, Town Librarian

Scott Jarzombek is the new Town Librarian and he has new ideas for the libraries. Mr. Jarzombek went through his suggested changes which are located in the backup documents.

One suggestion is for the terms of the Library Board of Trustees. Currently the term is 6 years. David Grey is the Chair of the Board of Trustees and he is entering the last year of his 6-year term. Mr. Grey thinks reducing the term from 6 to 3 years would be better and might make it easier to get people onto the Board. Mr. Jarzombek went through his suggestions line by line. Town Attorney James Baldwin is very comfortable with Mr. Jarzombek's Charter proposal. A discussion followed. It was decided they would:

- Change the wording from Town Treasurer to CFO as Ex-Officio in 10.17- D.2
- Change to three year staggered terms for the Board of Trustees
- Six Trustees total.

- II. Further Discussion of Article X – Budget Procedure and Related Matters
After a lengthy discussion earlier in the meeting, the CRC decided to to the joint BOS/BOF/RTM meetings for the first year and the following year have a vote to keep that process or go to joint BOS/BOF meetings with one presentation to all three bodies. Commissioner Mitola like Commissioner Iacono’s suggestion to have BOS/BOF in joint meetings and the RTM can attend if they wanted to. The intent would be a joint BOF/BOS meeting run by the BOF and if the RTM has established a committee structure, members may attend BOS/BOF meetings. If the subcommittee is featured in any budget hearings, a moderator will decide who goes to the meetings. Attorney Mednick will come up with language and will refer to Town Attorney Baldwin. The BOF would still have a public hearing.
- III. Further Discussion of Town Charter
The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 25, 2022 7pm and the Public Hearing will be on Thursday, June 2, 7pm. Attorney Mednick is proposing June 6 to present to the BOS. Attorney Mednick went through his draft of the revised Town Charter. He added some civility & rules of conduct language. Vice Chair Chris Brogan was on the Ethics Committee and gave his suggestions. Attorneys Mednick and Baldwin will try to draft the language.
- V. Adjourn
Commissioner Mitola made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Iacono seconded the motion.
The meeting adjourned at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Pru O’Brien
Recording Secretary