

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
Special Meeting
July 27, 2022 - 6:00 PM
HYBRID MEETING
IN Person – Sullivan Independence Hall, First Floor Conference Room
and VIA WEBEX

A recording of this meeting can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tstjIFfB1o>

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Bryan Cafferelli, Vice Chair Christopher Brogan, Secretary Marlene Battista, Pamela Iacono, John Mitola, John Wynne

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jay Gross

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Steven Mednick, Town Attorney James Baldwin, First Selectwoman Brenda L. Kupchick, Selectman Thomas Flynn, Selectwoman Nancy Lefkowitz

I. Call to Order

Chair Bryan Cafferelli called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

II. Roll Call

Jay Gross was the only Commissioner not present.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Cafferelli led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Confer with Board of Selectpersons regarding RESOLUTION OF THE FAIRFIELD BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION, PURSUANT TO C.G.S. §7-191(b)

Chair Cafferelli acknowledged the BOS in attendance and said this was a conferral session. There were 22 specific items and errata corrections sent back to the Charter Revision Commission by the Board of Selectpersons. Attorney Mednick went over the steps and process of this and the next few meetings. The First Selectwoman as well as the other Selectpersons spoke about their thoughts on the Charter Revision up to this point and what they look for going forward. The lengthy discussion can be heard in full by accessing the recording linked above.

V. To review, deliberate, hear consider and act upon the RESOLUTION OF THE FAIRFIELD BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION, PURSUANT TO C.G.S. §7-191(b)

Attorney Mednick went through the proposed recommendations by the BOS Article by Article and there were discussions among the Commission.

1. Article 1, 1.4- Review Definitions- Remove BOE from the definition of Contracts.
2. Article 1, 1.4(8)- Elected Town Official-RTM will not be included as they are a separate body. All their powers and duties remain the same.
3. Article 1 and Generally- Rules of Order and Civility should include DEI Clause.
4. Article II, VII & VIII- Charts from old charter will be used as they are clearer.
5. Article II, 2.3A(1)and(2), 2.3C(1)(a) & (b)- This was an error. It has no effect on the First Selectpersons authority.
6. Article II 2.3B & C.1(c) and Article III, 3.2A(1)(c)- RTM reduction. More data requested to support this.
7. Article II, 2.6D- Eliminate the idea of having a special petition to having a special election in this

situation. Attorneys Mednick and Baldwin will work on the language.

8. Article III, 3.3G- no discussion
9. Article III, 3.6B- Extend voting hours to be the same as state voting hours.
10. Article IV, 4.2A- Errata will be corrected
11. Article IV, 4.2B(1)(a)- BOE is bonded by state statute. Selectman Flynn requests lowering the overall Town contract threshold from \$100K to \$50K
12. Article IV, 4.2B(4)(c)- add the term “and the Town” to the end of the sentence to empower the public to feel they can raise issues.
13. Article IV, 4.3B(4),(5),(6), (8)- First Selectwoman Kupchick explained this recommendation and there was a discussion regarding the language regarding the Capital Plan.
14. Article IV, 4.3B(12)- discussion regarding adding the word “willing” when Selectpersons are appointed to a Town board or commission. Some said the appointments are part of the job of being a Selectperson.
15. Article IV, 4.3C(3)- First Selectperson should mediate but not resolve issues.
16. Article IV, 4.3F- Discussion regarding duties for the Town Administrator and who appoints this position. Suggested that this person will report regularly to the BOS.
17. Article V, 5.7B(1)- archaic language
18. Article VI, 6.1A- no discussion
19. Article VIII, 8.16- no discussion
20. Article IX, 9.1A- discussion about moving to 6.8.
21. Article IX- discussion regarding timeline of budget and suggested leaving it to the bodies to decide timing on Capital Plan. There was a discussion regarding the dates/weeks that currently exist.
22. Article IX, 9.3B- Suggested that the First Selectperson will call meeting to order and then turn over to the BOF Chair to run the meeting. The First Selectperson will preside and not facilitate.
23. Continue to review document for errata and scrivener’s corrections.

VI. Next Steps

Meeting on 7/28/22 will have public comment. The time allowed for public comment will be 3 minutes.

VII. Adjourn

Commissioner Mitola made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Battista seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:16pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pru O’Brien
Recording Secretary