

## **Charter Revision Commission Special Meeting**

**Thursday, October 28, 2021**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Via Webex**

**Fairfield, CT**

### **MINUTES**

A recording of this meeting can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UxIlhuQo04U>

**MEMBERS PRESENT**: Bryan Cafferelli-Chair, Chris Brogan-Vice Chair, Marlene Battista-Secretary, Jay Gross, Pam Iacono, John Mitola, John Wynne

**OTHERS PRESENT**: Town Attorney James Baldwin, Attorney Steven Mednick

#### **I. Call to Order**

Chair Bryan Cafferelli called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

#### **II. Roll Call**

Recording Secretary Pru O'Brien took the roll call.

#### **III. Information Item: Public Email Comments (Posted on CRC Webpage)**

There were no comments from the Commission.

#### **IV. To Hear, Consider and Act Upon the Election of Commission Secretary**

John Wynne nominated Marlene Battista to be the CRC secretary. John Mitola seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

#### **V. Redline and Charter Review Session with Town Attorney Baldwin and Commission Counsel Mednick**

Attorney Mednick introduced the Red Line Session. Town Attorney Jim Baldwin went through the Articles of the Charter and the articles which will be reviewed:

##### **Article I, Incorporation, General, Powers and Organizations**

- §1.3B-Review defined terms to make sure there is consistency where required.
- §1.4- Review and bring up to date with any change in Articles VIII, IX+X
- §1.4A- What should be done about Constables
- §1.4B- (A) Eliminate Assistant Town Attorneys, (B) Where "terms of office" are missing there should be a reference to the relevant charter provision.

## Article II, Elected Officials and Elections

- §2.2B-Minority representation provisions should be reviewed and possibly aligned.
- §2.3C-Board of Education minority representation provisions should be reviewed.
- §2.3D-Consider eliminating the clause “after their election and qualification.
- §2.3E-How many Justices of the Peace?
- §2.4 and 2.6G-Resigning from elected office. Should align.
- §2.6A(2)-How do we address the issue of redistricting to avoid partisan paralysis.
- §2.6A(3)-56 members on RTM-How should this be addressed?
- §2.6C-Nominations governed by General Statutes?
- §2.6D (4)-moderator notice of election of RTM members
- §2.6F-Procured for tied elections: governed by general statutes (see2.2 above)
- §4.2A-Eliminate Assistant Town Attorneys
- §4.2B-Judge of Qualifications: what does this mean? Is this a standard for removal?
- §4.5-Eliminate “newspaper” publication requirements

## Article V Executive Branch

- §5.3-Official Bonds: Is this necessary? (Note: check with CIRMA)
- §5.4-Regulations: ‘Publication’ issue

## Article VI Board of Selectmen and First Selectman

- General Issue: How will we approach the issue of governance reform?

## Article VII Elected Officers

- §7.1B(3)-Should the town treasurer position be eliminated?
- §7.2-Should CRC address the number of Justices of the Peace and whether the Town Constable position should be eliminated.

## Article IX Appointed Officers

- §9.5A-Fiscal Officer and Controller-Review the qualification provision.

- §9.6-Should CRC eliminate?
- §9.17-D and E-Tax Collector: review “Accounting Method” and “Special Exemption”
- §9.18-Tree Warden-Does the one-year term make sense?

Article X Specific Permanent Appointed Boards, Authorities, Commissions and Departments

- §10.8-There is no specific Commission to which DPW is attached. Should it be moved to a different article?

Article XII Budget Procedures and Related Matters

- §12.8-Should this provision be moved to Purchasing Agent provision?
- §12.9-Should this provision be moved to Board of Finance?

Article XIV Miscellaneous

- §14.1-Official Seal provision should be reviewed.

**VI. Adjournment**

Chris Brogan made a motion to adjourn. Marlene Battista seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:41

Respectfully submitted,

Pru O'Brien  
Recording Secretary