

**TOWN OF HADDAM
CHARTER REVISION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL
21 FIELD PARK DRIVE, HADDAM, CT 06438
WEDNESDAY, 19 JULY 2017
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
*Subject to Approval by the Commission***

ATTENDANCE

X	Michael Battistoni, Assistant Secretary
X	Thomas Berchulski
X	William Bowles
X	Audrey Brookes, Secretary
X	John Fernandes, Vice Chairman
X	Harlan Fredericksen
A	Amy Jacques-Purdy
X	Wayne Rutty, Chairman
X	Lizz Milardo, First Selectman
X	Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order

Mr. Rutty, chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Review Minutes – 22 May 2017 Meeting

MOTION: John Fernandes moved to approve the 22 May 2017 meeting minutes as submitted. Audrey Brookes second. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Liz Glidden, Town Planner, Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) Implementation Commission (PIC) – Request for Inclusion within Charter

Mrs. Milardo explained that the POCD Committee has done a lot of work on the proposed new POCD and once the document is passed, it would be good to have a committee following up to make sure the Plan is being followed. Mrs. Milardo stated this topic just came up at a recent POCD meeting and she felt it was important for there to be some discussion as this is a viable committee that should be considered.

Mrs. Glidden distributed an email sent to Mr. Rutty, dated 12 July 2017, with suggested wording under Section 5. Mrs. Glidden apologize to the Committee for bringing this item to them so late in the Charter process; and explained how this matter came to be. Mrs. Glidden explained what a POCD Implementation Commission (PIC) is responsible for – ensuring implementation of Action Items within the POCD is being addressed – and that members would be appointed by the BOS.

Mr. Fredericksen stated although he feels this is a good idea, he's concerned if a change of this nature were made without an opportunity for public comment it could be detrimental to the process. Mrs. Milardo stated the Committee has done statutorily what is required and the Board of Selectmen (BOS) did not feel

there was anything at the hearing that they wanted to direct the Committee in doing. Mrs. Milardo did note that Mrs. Glidden's request and suggested wording was not presented at the BOS public hearing; however, there is an opportunity to go back to the BOS for approval. Mrs. Milardo stated perhaps this request could be handled by an Ordinance.

Mrs. Glidden asked how the Charter revision will be adopted. Mr. Bowles stated by referendum. Discussion followed in regard to the process (requirements) with Mrs. Milardo stating the final report has not yet been voted on. Mrs. Milardo stated she could speak to Attorney Carella regarding this.

Mr. Battistoni asked if the POCD Advisory Committee is not within the Charter. Mrs. Milardo stated it is not and explained further. Mr. Bowles and Mr. Fernandes recommended this be handled by Ordinance. A brief discussion followed in regard to the difference between the POCD Advisory Committee and the proposed PIC; and how to move this suggestion forward as an Ordinance.

Mr. Fredericksen thanked Mrs. Glidden for her work on this matter.

5. Review of Public Input from Board of Selectmen's Public Hearing and Meeting Held on 27 June 2017 and 5 July 2017, Respectively

Mrs. Batzner distributed copies of the proposed Charter as revised 22 May 2017; memo from Richard D. Carella, Esq., Town Attorney, dated 25 May 2017; Municipal Boards of Finance, Office of Legislative Research, Research Report, 2014-R-0158, dated 12 June 2014; and Board of Selectmen's 27 June 2017 Public Hearing minutes. Mrs. Batzner apologized for having not copied the Board of Selectmen's 5 July 2017 Meeting minutes. (**Recording Clerk's Note:** The BOS 5 July 2017 Meeting minutes were not available on the town's website at the time of this meeting.)

Mr. Bowles asked Mrs. Milardo if there was anything the Committee should be aware of from the 5 July 2017 BOS meeting. Mrs. Milardo stated the BOS took a vote and they had no further comments.

Mrs. Milardo stated at the last Committee meeting (22 May 2017), there were some questions the Committee had asked for legal clarification on and the Committee has those responses. Mrs. Milardo also stated the BOS held their public hearing on 27 June 2017 and the minutes of that hearing reflect the comments made (very similar to those made at the Committee's 10 May 2017 public hearing). Mrs. Milardo suggested the Committee review the comments, look at Attorney Carella's memo, answer any last questions, if any, and vote on what the Committee would like to do.

Section 4-12 - Mr. Bowles asked why there was a kickback regarding the Board of Finance (BOF). Mrs. Milardo stated the public comments were the same as before – not seeing a need to increase the BOF membership. Mr. Bowles noted the BOF chairman advocated for the increase in membership. Discussion followed in regard to the BOF chairman not voting unless there's a tie (there is nothing codifying this); the increase in membership to break a tie; and concern over a quorum.

MOTION: Harlan Fredericksen moved to change the wording as outlined in Attorney Carella's memo. Bill Bowles second. Discussion followed and the motion was amended.

MOTION: Harlan Fredericksen moved to revise the first sentence, and combine next two sentences in Section 4-12 as suggested by Richard D. Carella, Esq., Town Attorney, in a memo dated May 25, 2017, and retain the last sentence. Bill Bowles second. Motion carried unanimously.

Section 4-12 will read as follows: "Effective with the election in November 2019, the Board of Finance shall consist of seven (7) members and three (3) alternates serving staggered six-year terms. At least two (2) members and one (1) alternate shall be elected at each regular Town Election, except that commencing in November 2019 and every sixth year thereafter three (3) members and one (1) alternate shall be elected. The Board shall have the powers and duties prescribed by law."

Section 9-4(c) 1-3 – Mrs. Milardo stated there was concern whether or not the BOF had the right to use the one-third (1/3) of one (1) percent calculation (Mr. Schwing's comment, 22 May 2017). Mr. Bowles questioned whether the Committee needs to define what constitutes the "Total General Government Budget" and believes this is a legitimate objection/suggestion. Mr. Bowles stated he doesn't know how the Committee would define it. Mr. Bowles also stated Attorney Carella feels what the Committee has written is fine. Mr. Battistoni stated he doesn't think Attorney Carella is suggesting any changes on this. Mr. Bowles agreed, but he is and that the terminology should be defined. Mr. Battistoni agreed.

Mrs. Milardo went up to the Town Office Building to obtain a copy of the budget. For clarity, Mrs. Milardo suggested "Total General Government Budget (does not include RSD17 budget)". Mr. Bowles suggested "Total General Town Government Budget" which would exclude Regional School District 17 budget. Discussion followed in regard to some people thinking the total general budget includes the school budget.

MOTION: Bill Bowles moved that the sentence in Section 9-4(c)1 be altered so that following the word capitalized "Budget" the insertion of a parenthesis and inside that parenthesis are the following words: "(does not include Regional School District #17 budget)". Mike Battistoni second. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fredericksen briefly discussed the purpose of supplementary appropriations [Section 9-4(c)]. Mr. Bowles stated an opinion was received and Connecticut Home Rule laws are followed.

Section 9-7(c) – Attorney Carella indicated the Committee's proposed change to this section is fine.

6. General Discussion

Final Document - Discussion followed in regard to how the final document should look. Mrs. Milardo stated only the net changes will be shown (no strikeouts, etc.) and will be printed in Haddam Now and track changes can be posted on the town's website.

Time Frame - Discussion followed in regard to the process. Committee to make final report by 5 August 2017 (BOS meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 2 August 2017).

Report to Board of Selectmen - Mr. Fernandes stated the Committee needs to come up with a report for the BOS. Mr. Bowles draft a report (copy attached) with discussion following.

MOTION: Bill Bowles moved to approve the Recommendation Report as written. Audrey Brookes second. Motion carried unanimously.

Town Manager's Position – Mr. Bowles asked if the Committee would care to comment I regard to appointing a new committee to study whether or not a town manager's position is viable in Haddam. Discussion followed with the Committee deciding not to move forward with this matter.

7. Adjournment

MOTION: Bill Bowles moved to adjourn. Harlan Fredericksen second. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bunny Hall Batzner

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Recording Clerk