

Minutes from Public Hearing on June 27, 2017 Re: Charter Revision

Haddam Firehouse, 439 Saybrook Rd, Higganum, CT 06441

Call to order 6:32pm

Present: Lizz Milardo, Bob Duval – BOS

Charter Revision Committee – Wayne Rutty and Harlan Fredericksen

Public – Sean Moriarty, Marge DeBold, Richard Haase, Sally Haase, Melissa Schlag, Ed Schwing

Sean Moriarty – Comments as follows:

Comment: Section 4.4 if an unaffiliated is in an elected position and leaves why not appoint another unaffiliated.

Comment: Section 4.12. Do not change the size of the Board of Finance to 7.

Comment: Section 9.2 c. Why delete long range financial plan.

Comment by Lizz Milardo: I believe this was put somewhere else we will follow up.

Comment: Section d. Monitor Regional School district budget

Comment by Lizz Milardo: This was reinstated in the draft.

Comment: Section m. Tax Collector submit monthly reports put back in

Comment: Section 9.4, 1 – check on appropriations amount doesn't seem correct

Comment: Section 9.5 – keep competitive bid process.

Ed Schwing Comments as follows:

Comment: Concern that the Charter Revision document on the website with comments was not updated and there are no page numbers. He did not clearly see the changes that were made at the last charter revision meeting on May 22nd and would like another public hearing. Charter Revision committee had a few remaining items.

Section 4.12 – leave 6 members on the Board of Finance with 3 alternates, do not change it to 7 as recommended by the charter commission.

He questioned the changes in 9.4 Section 1 if they were considered and reviewed by town attorney.

Also commented there should be a board of ethics if the charter was not followed.

Comment by Lizz Milardo: Town attorney did comment back and the commission was sent responses as it is still in a draft form. Those comments along with tonight's comments will go back to the commission after it is discussed by the Selectmen at the next meeting.

Melissa Schlag comments as follows:

Comment: Also concurred with Ed Schwing to have another public hearing.

Comment: Vacancy of elected officials. If a seat is vacated by an unaffiliated then the seat should be filled with another unaffiliated.

Comment: Does not want to see an increase in Board of Finance seats.

Comment: Section 9-3? Would like more time to review the budget document.

Comment: Questions appropriation amount in 9.4 section 1 as legal amount. Also committee should define "general government budget".

Comment: Section 9.5 f. Competitive bids should be sealed to direct town management for a certain amount. East Haddam has an ordinance however we should have in the charter with a specific dollar amount.

Comment: Add FOI procedures to the charter

Comment: Add personnel policy for elected officials to the charter.

Comment: Reiterate to make changes to the charter track changes similar to what legislature does.

Sally Haase – Comments as follows

Comment: If an outside agency asks for more than 500, they should be required to submit their federal form 990.

Comment: Questioned Melissa Schlag about what she meant on benefits for elected official. Response from M. Schlag – for full time officials.

Comment – Request for a 5 member Board of Selectmen

Marge DeBold – comment as follows

Comment: Why are there 2 public meetings held tonight at the same time?

Comment Lizz Milardo: There is a deadline to get charter to public hearing, other meeting is not public hearing

Ed Schwing – Comments as follows

Comment – dollar amount for competitive bids should be in the charter

Melissa Schlag – Comments as follows

Comment – 5 people should be on the Board of Selectmen

Sean Moriarty – comment as follows

Comment – another reason for 5 members on the BOS is that more people would think about things that other members may not.

Meeting adjourned:

7:13pm

Lizz Milardo