

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC HEARING
October 15, 2015, 7:00 p.m.
Fire Safety Complex

MINUTES

Members Present: First Selectman Joyce Okonuk, Selectman Linda Finelli, and Selectman John Bendoraitis **Also Present:** Charter Commission Chairman Tom Meyer, Reporter Corey Sipe from The Chronicle, residents Jean Reichard & Barbara Griffin and Administrative Assistant Linda McDonald

1.0 Call to Order: J. Okonuk called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2.0 Power Point Presentation on proposed Charter from Charter Commission Chairman Tom Meyer

Tom Meyer gave an overview of the draft charter being proposed by the Charter Commission, focusing on the key features and changes from the prior draft Charter from June 2015. Some of the key features include:

- A continuation of a Town Meeting/ Selectman form of government.
- The Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Treasurer would be hired, rather than elected positions
- The number of members on the Board of Selectmen would increase from three to five, with a stipend for the First Selectman only
- A Town Administrator would be hired to administer town operations and work for the BOS. The BOS would continue to set policy for the Town.
- If the proposed Charter is accepted by the BOS, it will then be published within thirty days of BOS acceptance and then brought to the voters at the November 2016 election.

Discussion followed on the transition to five (5) Selectmen with overlapping terms and the hiring of a Town Administrator, Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Treasurer.

Discussion followed on the modified budget formation process in the proposed Charter. Key features include:

- The Board of Finance (BOF) will set the bottom line for the Town budget as they now do for the BOE budget. The BOS will determine individual budget bottom lines as they are more aware of the day to day operations of the departments and their financial need. This change provides checks and balances between the BOF and BOS.
- The BOF will be the only Board with the authority to move funds within individual budgets, same as at present time.

J. Okonuk said she would recommend to incoming BOS to hold additional public informational meetings in future months to increase Charter awareness among the voters.

With no other questions or comments, the public hearing was closed at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Joyce R. Okonuk, First Selectman

Pease see the minutes of subsequent meetings for the approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto.