

Charter Commission
Regular Meeting
June 5, 2019 7:00 PM

Town Hall

MINUTES

- **Members Present:** Gregg LaFontaine, Karen Buffkin, Myles Davis, Mike Nintean, Pierre Belisle, and Suzanne Gilleese

1.0 Call to Order

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

2.0 Discuss and act upon approval of minutes from May 15 Regular Meeting and May 23 Special Meeting

K. Buffkin MOVED to approve the minutes of the May 15 Regular Meeting; M. Davis SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED 6:0:0.

M. Nintean MOVED to approve the minutes of the May 23 Special Meeting; P. Belisle SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED 6:0:0.

3.0 Communications

The Chairman noted that the Board of Selectmen had contacted him and had informed him that the Board of Selectmen's public hearing on the proposed charter is scheduled for June 17, 2019, 7:30 pm at the Fire Safety Complex. The Board of Selectmen also asked him to present the proposed charter. K. Buffkin proposed to draft a summary for him for the hearing. The Chairman indicated that he is to get an outline from the Board of Selectmen. The Chairman further stated that other members of the commission do not have to be at this public hearing.

The Chairman further noted that the Board of Selectmen and the Charter Commission will hold a joint meeting on Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at the Town Hall.

4.0 Discuss comments and feedback from legal counsel

See 5.0.

5.0 Review drafts

The Chairman provided handouts of the latest version of the proposed charter after legal counsel's review. The Chairman also provided copies of correspondence from legal counsel. The Chairman put the latest version of the proposed charter on a screen using a projector, for the members to view.

The Chairman then asked for comment about the latest version of the proposed charter. There was discussion on proposed edits to Section 2.4. The members agreed to replace the phrase "current year total

tax burden” in Sections 2.4 and 2.5 with the phrase “current year tax levy”.

The proposed strike out of part of Section 3.3(2) was then discussed. The members agreed to keep all the language in Section 3.3(2), as all the language in Section 3.3(2) appeared to reflect current practice and that striking out part of it, as proposed, would make it an incomplete sentence. Section 3.3(1) was then discussed. The member agreed to strike the phrase “Article 7” from the sentence. The last sentence in Section 3.4 was then discussed and it was decided that the sentence would remain.

Members then reviewed and discussed Section 7.1. The phrase “during December” was agreed to be taken out of the second paragraph of that section. Members then discussed Section 7.2. It was agreed to add the phrase “except as provided in section 11.2” to the beginning of the second sentence.

Section 8.2.1 was then addressed. The term “unanimous vote” was discussed and it was agreed that the phrase “the affirmative vote of each member” was to be included in both paragraphs, with respect to the vote of the members of the Board of Selectmen. The members further agreed to include “or referendum” after the phrase “Annual Town Meeting” in both paragraphs. The wording in the first sentence of Section 8.2.1 was also moved around.

The members also discussed Section 9.8. The members agreed to include the sentence “[t]he Board of Finance may approve supplemental appropriations not to exceed \$10,000”, as suggested by K. Buffkin.

Section 11.2 was addressed. The members agreed that the proposed charter would have an effective date of December 1, 2019. The members further agreed to insert legal counsel’s draft of Section 11.2.1 and Section 11.2.2, to replace the current version of these sections. Additional revisions were considered and made. M. Nintean pointed out the reference to 2017 in Section 11.3. The reference to 2017 was then changed to 2021. There was discussion on whether to include the word “biennial” before the word “election” throughout Section 11.3. Other proposed edits were discussed and made to the proposed charter.

6.0 Complete work on charter document

See 5.0, 7.0.

7.0 Move to submit charter document to Board of Selectmen and Town Clerk

The Chairman called for a vote on whether to submit the proposed charter, as revised.

P. Belisle MOVED to submit the proposed charter, as revised; K. Buffkin SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED 6:0:0.

The Chairman stated that the proposed charter will be filed tomorrow with the town clerk and that the Board of Selectmen will be in possession of it tomorrow.

Members noted that there are also charter commission meetings scheduled for July 3, 2019 and July 17, 2019. The Chairman added that the commission has until July 17, 2019 to discuss the Board of Selectmen’s comments on the proposed charter.

8.0 Adjourn

K. Buffkin MOVED to adjourn; M.Nintean SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED 6:0:0.

Meeting adjourned around 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Gilleese
Secretary, Charter Commission

Please see the minutes of subsequent meetings for any corrections hereto.