

**Charter Revision Commission
Special Meeting – Public Hearing
June 23, 2022 — 7:00 PM
Fire Safety Complex
MINUTES**

Members Present: Chair Michael Ninteau, Karen Buffkin, Suzanne Gilleese, Keith LaPorte, Paula McDowell, Harold Nelson, Sandra Tremblay

Others Present: First Selectman Kevin Cwikla, Selectmen Kathleen Smith, Robin Chesmer, Betsy Petrie-McComber, Joseph Gilleese, Liz Shilosky

1. Call to Order

M. Ninteau called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Preliminary Public Hearing on Charter Revision

K. Cwikla: gave thanks to commission for involvement. Consider the role of a Town Manager. The First Selectman's job has evolved into complexities with constantly changing state statutes and regulations. Suggested shifting the date of budget adoption to include the financial numbers for revenue from the state. Recommended placement of proposed Charter revisions as two ballot questions: 1. Question on creating a Town Manager 2. Question on all other proposals

B. Petrie-McComber: Town Meeting form of government is paramount. Recommended to conduct additional Town Meetings between budget referenda when referendum fails. How can we include more R's D's and unaffiliated voters on boards and commissions? The town has arrived at a point for a hired Town Manager as candidates for public office have become limited.

L. Shilosky: Said she was representing the Commission on Aging. She works in collaboration with Senior Center Director. Need to maintain good communication between the Director, commission, and First Selectman. The commission needs a defined purpose. What is the job description of the director?

R. Chesmer: Consider Town Manager due to complexities of the job. Boards and commissions should retain a simple majority for balance of opinions.

K. Smith: Fully supports Town Manager. Re-instate monetary compensation for Board of Selectmen as coverage concerns have not changed. Multiple special meetings are required to cover town government.

H. Nelson: What are the differences between legal costs and the First Selectman's salary? What would the prevailing wage be for a town of Lebanon's size for a town manager?

P. McDowell: Could we have an open primary to include unaffiliated?

3. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith LaPorte, Acting Secretary