

## **Charter Review Commission Meeting Minutes – August 21, 2018**

Vice Chair Olson called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

### **Roll Call**

Members present were: Dave Goldberg, Ned Kitchel, Bill Lunt, Sean Mahoney, Dave McConnell, Mary Nelson, Richard Olson, Rachel Reed. Staff present were: Amy Lamontagne, Nathan Poore.

Members absent were: Karen Farber, Amy Tchao

### **Item 1 – Approve minutes of August 14 meeting**

Mary motioned to accept and Sean seconded. All in favor.

### **Item 2 – Public Comment (3 minutes per person)**

No public comment.

### **Item 3 – Review Charter Article VI – Article X (including Article II, Section 213)**

Articles VI, VII and VIII, no changes

Article 901.2 - After discussion of current costs surrounding more routine, larger single capital purchases, and the percentage by which the budget has increased over the past decade, the Commission suggested that the figure \$200,000 be increased to \$500,000.

Article 902 - No suggestions.

Article 903 - After discussion, the Commission suggests that the amount be raised to \$2 million, and that the phrase, “except appropriations associated with the treatment and collection of wastewater,” be researched and reviewed by Bond Council to ensure that removal of the phrase will not encumber other aspects of running the Town.

Article 904 - No suggestions.

Article 905 - After discussion, the majority of the Commission concluded that they would prefer that it be more difficult than 10% of the registered voters’ signatures to recall an elected official, given the relative ease of having such an event be influenced virtually in current times, and given the difference between an ordinance that has been put in place by town officials and the proposed recall of an official who has been elected directly by the voters of the town. After researching the

requirements in place at other towns, the figure of 20% was offered for consideration by the majority of those who were interested in a change.

Article X - No suggestions through Section 1008.

Section 1009 - There's a consensus that, in the event of a conflict of interest, it should be acknowledged that this transaction was in fact compromised, and that the transaction can therefore be voided, but that it is not required for the Town to do so if in fact it is not in the best interest of the Town at the time to do so. The example of the fluctuations in the cost of raw materials for the item being re-bid was given. Some changes to the verbiage of the last sentence were discussed. Amy and Nathan will research our options further, and they will provide some clarified language.

Having finished its first complete review of the Charter, the Commission returned to the draft prepared with the incorporation of previous comments by staff (but without legal review).

Section 201 was accepted by the Commission to be suggested as now drafted.

Section 202 was discussed, and the language in red and blue shall be brought forward for suggestion, and the language in purple shall be suggested as, "what the Council deems a serious crime."

Section 204.1 was accepted to be suggested as now drafted.

Section 206 - It was suggested that the time of the meeting be changed to 7 pm.

Section 211 - It was suggested that the first sentence would read, "If a seat in the Council becomes vacant, the vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term at the next regular municipal or state election." The rest of the section would be suggested for adoption as it is now drafted.

Section 213 - Accepted by the Commission to be suggested as now drafted.

Section 216 - Accepted by the Commission to be suggested as now drafted.

Section 218 - Accepted by the Commission to be suggested as now drafted.

Section 303 - Hyphen in purple will be omitted, and then accepted by the Commission to be suggested as now drafted.

Section 305 - Accepted by the Commission to be suggested as now drafted after the official title of the Commissioner has been clarified.

Section 401 - Accepted by the Commission to be suggested as now drafted.

Section 402 - It was decided that the language inserted here should parallel Section 202 with the substitution of "School Board" for "Town Council."

Section 403 - It was decided that the language inserted here should parallel 211 and therefore that "...provided that said election is at least 60 days from the date that the vacancy occurred." will be removed.

Section 404, 405, 406 and 407 - Accepted by the Commission to be suggested as now drafted.

Section 502 - Accepted by the Commission to be suggested as now drafted.

Section 506 - Accepted by the Commission to be suggested as now drafted.

Section 508 - Accepted by the Commission to be suggested as now drafted.

Section 801 - Accepted by the Commission to be suggested as now drafted.

The Commission believes it would be best to have the School Board review the relevant additional changes made tonight, and the one discussed item should be reviewed by the Bond Committee. Then, staff must have time to prepare the final draft for the Commission's review at its next meeting, to be scheduled to comply with all applicable deadlines.

#### **Item 4 – Other Business**

No business at this time.

#### **Item 5 – Adjourn**

Vice Chair Olson adjourned the meeting at 8:38 pm.