

**Charter Revision Commission
Regular Meeting
March 26, 2015**

Chairman Matthew Berger called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. In attendance were Chairman Matthew Berger, Vice-Chairman Stephen Bessette, Sue Jones, Alice Soscia, Amy Hambly, Bob Statchen, Ashley Gillece, James Murphy.

1. Public Hearing

- a. Bruce Yarnall - Thanked the commission for focusing on the issues with the Board of Finance instead of broadening the mission.
- b. Jennifer Herbst - assisted in collecting signatures for the petition and thanked the commission for their work. Encouraged moving the revision forward in a timely manner.
- c. Bill Sternberg - Agreed with the first two comments. Agreed the voters have the right to decide who sits on the board however is against term limits. Believes it prevents the town from having great talent stay on the board. Commented on the wording of Section 8-1B regarding department directors. Brought up the issue of the Board of Finance appointing the Assessor.
- d. Marsha Standish - Ms. Standish spoke about the history of the Assessor position and appointment by the Board of Finance.
- e. Virginia McCormack - Thanked the commission for their work. Ms. McCormack reiterated the goals of the petition for the charter revision. She expressed agreement with the changes brought forth by the commission so far. Ms. McCormack recommended if other voters would like to see further changes they may open another charter revision with a petition.
- f. Pat Hambly - Did not want change for change sake, agrees with the choices of changes with commission has made.
- g. Patty Nasland - Agreed with the comments thanking the commission and supports the changes made by the commission.

Commission Berger closed the public hearing at 7:25pm

2. Old Business

3. New Business

- a. Discussion of Public Comment on Proposed Revisions

The commission decided to adopt the grammatical change regarding the language in Section 8-1B.

The commission reviewed a letter submitted by Town Clerk Cindy Ladwig regarding an ordinance limiting the board's ability to buy and sell property to being under \$2,000. The commission discussed whether to leave the change to increase the limit of selling town property from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Ms. Gillece and Ms. Hambly reiterated they are still against the proposed change. Mr. Bessette stated the original proposal was not to take away the power of the voters but to be more efficient in the day to day business of the Selectman's office. Ms. Standish spoke saying that the majority of the items under this amount would be personal property, there are not many pieces of real property fitting this range. Mr. Berger stated the First Selectman has the power to make purchases up to \$10,000, it would seem to fit to sell at \$10,000. Mr. Statchen moved to remove the change regarding the limit to the value of the sale of town property, seconded by Ms. Soscia, all in favor 6-2, Mr. Bessette and Mr. Berger opposed, motion approved.

Mr. Statchen stated that he feels the commission has addressed the rest of Ms. Ladwig's comments.

Mr. Murphy moved to accept the proposed charter revisions as revised tonight, seconded by Mr. Statchen, all in favor 8-0, motion approved.

Mr. Statchen moved to add the language to the cover letter regarding the public comment about the changes and modify the comment regarding the change to the sale of property, seconded by Ms. Hambly, all in favor 8-0, motion approved.

4. Minutes

Mr. Berger proposed to make a change to the Feb. 26th minutes to add the statement made by Mr. Gomes that he originally favored the Town Manager but has since changed his opinion after witnessing the Town of Westerly's struggles.

Mr. Statchen moved to approve the 02-26-2015 minutes as amended, Ms. Gillece second, all in favor 8-0, motion approved.

Mr. Bessette moved to approve the 03-12-2015 minutes, seconded by Ms. Hambly, all in favor 7-0, Mr. Murphy abstains, motion approved.

5. Correspondence

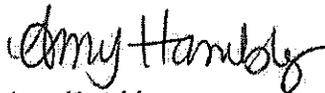
- a. Resignation letter from Mr. Gomes

6. Public Comment

- a. Kevin Bornstein - questioned whether the grammatical change has been made.

Ms. Hambly moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Statchen, all in favor 8-0, meeting adjourned at 7:53pm.

Submitted by:



Amy Hambly