

**TOWN OF GRANBY  
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION 2011  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 16, 2012**

**PRESENT:** Francis Brady, Chairman; Terri Ann Hahn, Diane Hermsdorf, Annie Hornish, Lowell Johnson, Sheri Litchfield, Jim Lofink, Melissa Migliaccio, and David Russell

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Public

The meeting of the Charter Revision Commission 2011 was called to order by Chairman Francis Brady at 6:05 p.m.

**MINUTES**

The Commission reviewed the meeting minutes of May 9, 2012 and one correction was requested by Ms. Migliaccio. Add the following sentence between paragraph seven and eight. Arrived after public comment - the following public comments were received below.

ON A MOTION by David Russell, seconded by Teri Hahn, the Commission voted 8-0-1 to approve the meeting minutes of May 9, 2012 as amended. Ms. Hornish abstained.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED THIS EVENING OUT OF AGENDA ORDER AT APPROXIMATELY 6:20 P.M. AND 7:00 P.M.**

Michael Guarco, Board of Finance Chairman, gave a few comments to the Commission. Highlights were:

- Wants to maintain public input through the town meeting.
- The current process allows a town referendum to come into play when there is little interest or a lot of interest against.
- Gave some background history of budgets. Pre-1960's it was a town meeting. In the 70's there was automatic referendum but it changed in the early 80's. There were defeats in the 80's, possibly because of the turmoil within the boards and that issue went away in the 90's with little defeats and the threshold for approving the budget was increased at the last charter revision.
- When formulating the budget, the Finance Board listens throughout the year and already plans are being discussed for future tax years.
- The public has more potential to defeat for six months without any safety catch, although Finance Board has power for contractual obligations if the budget is not passed.
- With 500 people at the town meeting we hear and learn what the people want. A lot of information is given and received.
  - As an example, at the annual town meeting the budget was not the issue. It was the process as an issue this year.

Len Murray of Granby, CT addressed the Commission by Chairman Brady's suggestion to bring duplicates of the petition and read the stated petition question. The originals will be brought to

the Town Clerk sometime in the future.

Petition Question

We the undersigned voters of the town of Granby request that the town budget vote be changed from a town meeting to an automatic referendum for the following reasons it's a more democratic process and will enable more citizens to vote.

James Glenney of Granby, CT commented to the Commission that he believes the town meeting method is outdated. He asked when the draft report would be available for the public. He was told the report would be available on May 22, 2012 by way of Town Clerk's office, both Granby Libraries, and the website.

**REVIEW PRELIMINARY DRAFT REPORT**

The Commission reviewed the entire preliminary draft report and notes were taken. They discussed the town meeting format and referendum format. In their findings, it was discovered that there are a lot of differences among the towns and cities as to how to pass the budget and there is no set right way to handling the budget process. The preliminary draft report will be available for public viewing on May 22, 2012. Two major motions were made regarding section 10-5 (c) Meeting – Annual Town Budget and (d) Machine Vote.

ON A MOTION by Lowell Johnson, seconded by Annie Hornish, the Commission voted 8-1-0 to retain a town meeting vote in some form. Mr. Lofink voted nay.

ON A MOTION by Teri Hahn, seconded by Lowell Johnson, the Commission voted 8-1-0 to expand town meeting to two sessions (Monday and Saturday) with 250 residents voting and consistent with text as provided in the working document. Mr. Lofink voted nay.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

No action taken.

**REVISED TIME SCHEDULE AND CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Chairman Brady indicated the following as the revised time schedule.

May 19, 2012 Special Meeting – Town Hall Meeting Room at 9 a.m.

June 1, 2012 Public Hearing and Special Meeting – Senior Center Community Room at 7 p.m.

June 4, 2012 Draft report delivery to Town Clerk and Board of Selectmen

**ADJOURNMENT**

ON A MOTION by Lowell Johnson, seconded by Diane Hermsdorf, the Board voted unanimously (9-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia I. Chieski  
Recording Secretary