

**TOWN OF GRANBY
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION 2011
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 14, 2012**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: William F. Smith, Jr., Town Manager; and Karen I. Hazen, Town Clerk

The meeting of the Charter Revision Commission 2011 was called to order by Chairman Francis Brady at 7:35 p.m.

PUBLIC

Chairman Brady asked the public if they had comments to share.

Jack Powers of Northwoods Road, North Granby inquired about the agenda and what the attachment meant because he could not find it. Chairman Brady explained you received the agenda only and the attachment was a working document for the Commission.

Reinard Maier of Day Street, Granby addressed the Commission regarding the budget approval process. He mentioned that a town meeting was getting together in one place, which has worked for Granby, but it is time to move to the 21st century to make the budget approval process more inclusive of residents in town allowing them more of an opportunity to have a vote. He has looked at Simsbury's budget process and felt it gave an opportunity for residents to vote, in particular if the budget increases by a certain percentage, the budget goes automatically to a vote.

Terry Wright of Northwoods Road, North Granby inquired if the Commission is considering reducing the number of votes to pass a budget vote, he feels the vote number should not be decreased. In fact, it should reflect a greater percentage of the registered voters in town. Jack Powers concurred. Mr. Wright mentioned that the Town of Windsor voted on town issues on the weekend and thought that might be a good idea.

Commissioner Lofink reported that the recent weekend vote in Windsor, CT was a small turnout.

Chairman Brady welcomed Diane Hernsdorf, who is a new member to the Commission.

RECEIVE COMMENTS FROM TOWN MANAGER AND TOWN CLERK

Town Manager Smith began the discussion stating that he has dealt with the Charter and budget over the years and for the most part, the Charter is in good order and works well. A little detailing can be done. Technology has allowed the opportunity to adopt a budget at a town meeting and at times the town meeting goes to 10 p.m. before a vote. He commented those who are voted into office should carry a lot of influence and these representatives are charged to run the town as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Commissioner Hahn asked Town Manager Smith what his responsibility is to hire a Police Chief. Town Manager Smith responded the Police of Chief is an appointive process with the Board of Selectmen's approval. Commissioner Lofink asked why is this department mentioned in the

Charter and Town Manager Smith indicated because the Chief's position is subject to the provisions of the general statutes.

Commissioner Russell asked Town Manager Smith whether section 10-2(d) [town capital improvement projects] is still being followed. Town Manager Smith answered yes, we meet it and it goes out ten years.

Commissioner Russell asked Town Manager Smith if section 10-5(e) should be revised to handle debt service because as a town we do not want to fall into default? Town Manager Smith answered he believes that state statutes are in place to meet debt obligations and this section has a mechanism that allows for borrowing if necessary.

A discussion ensued as to whether a tax bill can be mailed out to residents to assist in handling contract obligations even though a tax levy cannot be made because the budget has not passed. This is something that should be looked at further.

Chairman Brady led a discussion on the schedule delivery of the budget to the Board of Finance and how tight the delivery timeline may be during some years (giving only a one day allowance). The Charter timeline allows for last minute adjustment or delivery. Town Manager Smith commented he has not experienced a problem in the delivery of the budget to the Board of Selectmen or the Board of Finance. Further discussion by the Commission will continue at a later date.

Karen Hazen stated as Town Clerk she knows of no unresolved situation resulting from the Charter and feels it works well.

Chairman Brady mentioned in the Charter that for service of lawsuits, the First Selectman shall be the official head for the purpose of receiving and whether this was still the practice. The practice is Town Clerk accepts the service and notifies the Town Manager. The Town Manager notifies appropriate persons, including First Selectman.

Town Manager Smith commented about what constitutes a quorum for a meeting in that the method of attendance may include telephone conferencing for a quorum and voting. Commissioner Hahn mentioned if no reference was made in the Charter, we could still do this method because it is provided in the state statutes.

MINUTES

The Commission reviewed the meeting minutes of February 15, 2012. A correction was noted to page one, first paragraph to add the following sentence:

Welcome Diane Hensdorf, a new member to the Commission once sworn in. She is a guest tonight.

ON A MOTION by Annie Hornish, seconded by Sheri Litchfield, the Commission voted 8-0-1 to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. Hensdorf abstained.

ADDRESS SIGNIFICANT ISSUES AS TO THE CHARTER

The Commission reviewed a working draft document to Chapter 10's significant issues in the Charter. They will continue reviewing this document in preparation of preparing a draft report to the Board of Selectmen.

CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Charter Revision Commission 2011 next regular meeting is scheduled on March 28, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION by David Russell, seconded by James Lofink, the Board voted unanimously (9-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia I. Chieski
Recording Secretary