

**TOWN OF GRANBY
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION 2011
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 9, 2012**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Public was in attendance.

The meeting of the Charter Revision Commission 2011 was called to order by Chairman Francis Brady at 7:03 p.m.

PUBLIC

There were a number of residents attending this meeting and a few spoke.

Terry Wright of North Granby, CT addressed the Commission regarding his position on the annual town meeting budget procedure. He stated that the vote should go directly to referendum and the budget vote should be voted on a weekend day or over a few days that would include a weekend day. He urged the Commission to eliminate the annual town meeting process as it currently exists and to split the budget vote into an education and town budget vote.

Len Murray of Granby, CT addressed the Commission on his efforts for petitioning a change in the town meeting budget procedure. He commented that he has collected over 900 signatures regarding changing the budget vote process to a referendum vote enabling more residents to vote.

Robert Flanigan of Granby, CT addressed the Commission that he had helped with the petition and people in town, like him, want this.

Jerry Ledger of Granby, CT addressed the Commission stating that he, too, is in favor of the referendum vote for the budget. He supported the budget to be two separate budgets, unless common services were combined for town and school, then it should be a single budget. Other comments he made were: large capital projects should be a referendum vote at a town meeting, the town should follow the same rules for development, add ethics commission, election process should allow for a better chance of a contest (doesn't know why the elections are uncontested), and elected and hired officials should listen and respond positively.

John Glenney of Granby, CT addressed the Commission stating he thought the informational meetings held for the \$11.4 Capital Projects issue with a referendum vote was a good way to hold budget meetings and that the referendum vote is the right way to vote on the budget. He asked when the draft Charter report would be ready. Chairman Brady indicated 10 days before the public hearing by the Charter Revision Commission.

Stan Walczewski of Granby, CT addressed the Commission stating he felt strongly regarding a referendum vote for the budget because he wants to see more people get involved.

John Monkiewicz of North Granby, CT addressed the Commission in favor of a referendum vote, especially when it deals with taxes.

MINUTES

The Commission reviewed the meeting minutes of April 25, 2012.

ON A MOTION by Lowell Johnson, seconded by Teri Hahn, the Commission voted 8-0-0 to approve the meeting minutes of April 25, 2012 as presented.

ADDRESS SIGNIFICANT ISSUES AS TO THE CHARTER RAISED IN FEBRUARY 24, 2012 MEMORANDUM

Highlights as to the document "Address Significant Issues as to the Charter" are incorporated in the minutes as an attachment for Chapters Seven (7), Eight (8), and Nine (9).

CONTINUE DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF 2002 CHARTER

A discussion ensued regarding town meeting budget process. Highlights were:

- Commissioner Johnson indicated right now when voting for the budget at the town meeting, you need two yes votes to one in order for the budget to pass the same night.
- Commissioner Lofink commented it is a small number of people to pass the budget the same night. The vote can be swayed either way.
- Commissioner Migliaccio was interested to know what surrounding towns use the referendum vote. Commissioner Migliaccio and Lofink will do the research for the next meeting on towns with a population less than 15,000 to find out their budget process.
- Commissioner Russell commented on Granby's history of town budget votes and referendums. The referendum vote was eliminated years ago, as it was shown to be unnecessary to hold.

OTHER BUSINESS

No discussion was held.

CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING

The Commission members discussed the meeting schedule and it was agreed as follows:

- May 16, 2012 at 6 p.m., location to be determined
- May 19, 2012 at 9 a.m., location to be determined
- June 1, 2012 at 7 p.m. Public Hearing, location to be determined
- June 1, 2012 immediately following Public Hearing if necessary
- June 4, 2012 Draft report to Board of Selectmen

ADJOURNMENT

ON A MOTION by Diane Hermsdorf, seconded by James Lofink, the Board voted unanimously (8-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia I. Chieski
Recording Secretary