

**TOWN OF GRANBY
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION 2011
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 1, 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 was in attendance.

The meeting of the Charter Revision Commission 2011 was called to order by Chairman Francis Brady at 8:13 p.m.

PUBLIC

No public input received.

MINUTES

The Commission reviewed the meeting minutes of May 16 and May 19, 2012. Ms. Hahn noted a correction in the minutes of May 16, 2012. On pages one and two correct the spelling of Teri Hahn". It should read "Terri Hahn".

ON A MOTION by Jim Lofink, seconded by Lowell Johnson, the Commission voted 9-0-0 to approve the meeting minutes of May 16, 2012 as amended.

ON A MOTION by Sheri Litchfield, seconded by Terri Hahn, the Commission voted 7-0-2 to approve the meeting minutes of May 19, 2012 as presented. Melissa Migliaccio and Lowell Johnson abstained.

**CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS
REVIEW, REVISE, AND/OR APPROVE DRAFT CHARTER REPORT TO SEND TO TOWN CLERK
AND BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Mr. Lofink distributed a document entitled "Granby Annual Budget Voting History" to use as tool for discussion regarding Section 10-5 Meeting – Annual Town Budget. A copy is attached. It gave the history from 1963 – 2011. One observation made was that controversy brings people out to vote. Also distributed and a copy attached is the Levy and mill rate information for the years 2001 – 2013.

The public input from the public hearing tonight was the residents want a change in the charter for an automatic referendum vote on the annual town budget. The Commission talked over many of the public comments and other points of views at length. The Commission discussed at length and agreed to present the draft charter report to the Board of Selectmen with the recommendation of placing the proposed charter amendments on the November ballot in a two question part because there is controversy around the annual town budget topic. As a result, three options were identified for the Commission to consider that are: 1) keeping the proposed change for a two session town meeting held on Monday and Saturday. 2) change to an automatic referendum 3) compromise and change to a town meeting and vote when a relatively low percentage increase over the current tax levy is recommended for the annual town budget and go to an automatic referendum when the current tax levy increase exceeds a certain percentage.

ON A MOTION by Jim Lofink, seconded by David Russell, the Commission voted 4-5-0 to forward the draft charter report to the Board of Selectmen for the November ballot in two questions. The

first question would include all the changes made to the current charter except for the Section 10-5. The second question would only be the changes made to Section 10-5, allowing for an informal town meeting and an automatic referendum. Mrs(s). Migliaccio, Hornish, Herndorf, and Messrs. Johnson and Brady voted no. The motion failed.

ON A MOTION by Diane Herndorf, seconded by Annie Hornish, the Commission voted 5-4-0 to forward the draft charter report to the Board of Selectmen for the November ballot in two questions. The first question would include all the changes made to the current charter except for the Section 10-5. The second question would be only be the changes made to Section 10-5, allowing for a town meeting vote and a trigger to allow an automatic referendum when the increase in the proposed budget exceeded a certain percentage of the current tax levy. Mrs. Litchfield, Ms. Hahn, and Messrs. Lofink and Russell voted no. The motion passed.

ON A MOTION by Diane Herndorf, seconded by Terri Hahn, the Commission voted 3-5-1 to set the trigger mechanism to enable an automatic referendum if the proposed increase in the annual budget exceeds 5 percent of the current tax levy. Mrs(s). Migliaccio, Litchfield and Hornish and Messrs. Lofink and Johnson voted no. Mr. Russell abstained. The motion failed.

ON A MOTION by Melissa Migliaccio, seconded by Annie Hornish, the Commission voted 5-4-0 to set the trigger mechanism to enable an automatic referendum if the proposed increase in the annual budget exceeds 4 percent of the current tax levy. Mrs. Litchfield, Ms. Hahn, and Messrs. Lofink and Russell voted no. The motion passed.

ON A MOTION by Terri Hahn, seconded by Lowell Johnson, the Commission voted 3-6-0 to keep the suggested language on section 10-5 from the draft charter report dated May 19, 2012 that stated a two session town meeting would be held (Monday and Saturday). Mrs(s). Herndorf, Migliaccio, Litchfield and Hornish and Messrs. Russell and Brady voted no. The motion failed.

ON A MOTION by Annie Hornish, seconded by Diane Herndorf, the Commission voted 5-4-0 to approve the proposed language on section 10-5 presented this evening containing language providing for a single town meeting session and providing for the trigger mechanism enabling an automatic referendum if the proposed annual budget increase exceeds 4 percent of the current tax levy. Mrs. Litchfield, Ms. Hahn, and Messrs. Russell and Lofink voted no. The motion passed.

The proposed charter report with all approved changes will be filed with the Town Clerk and delivered and presented to the Board of Selection at their meeting on June 4, 2012.

CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

The June 6, 2012 meeting will be cancelled and the next meeting scheduled will depend upon Board of Selectmen action.

ON A MOTION by Diane Herndorf, seconded by Terri Hahn, the Board voted unanimously (9-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia I. Chieski
Recording Secretary