



Ellen O'Shaughnessy  
Chairman

Mark Joyse  
Vice Chairman

STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND  
INCORPORATED 1786

# TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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ELLINGTON TOWN CLERK

John L. Daigle, Jr.  
Bruce Fader  
Robert Harvey  
Dale Roberson  
Michael Stupinski

## Charter Revision Commission

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 23, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bruce Fader; Robert Harvey; Mark Joyse (Vice Chairman); Ellen O'Shaughnessy (Chairman); Dale Roberson; Michael Stupinski

MEMBERS ABSENT: John L. Daigle, Jr.

OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Palshaw

### I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman O'Shaughnessy called the special meeting of the Charter Revision Commission (CRC) to order at 9:20 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Hall, 55 Main Street, Ellington, Connecticut.

### II. CITIZEN'S FORUM:

No citizens came forward.

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. March 9, 2016

MOVED (STUPINSKI), SECONDED (JOYSE) AND PASSED (AYE: FADER, HARVEY, JOYSE O'SHAUGHNESSY, ROBERSON, STUPINSKI; ABSTAIN: HARVEY) TO APPROVE THE MARCH 9, 2016 CRC MEETING MINUTES.

### IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review Comments from the Public Hearing – March 23, 2016

The CRC decided to take up the issue of five-member boards and minority representation. Mr. Joyse noted that he couldn't find a five-member board in Ellington but that he wouldn't have a problem with Mr. Miller's suggestion that five-member boards have a bare majority representation rule. Mr. Stupinski said that the only issue he could see is that with a one member minority there might not be a second; he felt the rule should not be added. Mr. Fader

thought it better not to include it and let be the composition that the electorate elected. The CRC decided not to pursue the issue.

Mrs. O'Shaughnessy said that between today and April 11 every recommended change needs to be written into ballot form. The CRC asked the Recording Secretary to complete this task.

The CRC decided to take up the issue of an automatic trigger for budget referendum. Mrs. O'Shaughnessy considered the town meeting the chief legislative body of the town and believed that for the budget to go to referendum it has to come from the town meeting. Mr. Fader said that the town meeting is the opportunity for public officials to educate the public. Mr. Palshaw said that sometimes the purpose of the town meeting is to vote to go to referendum. Mrs. O'Shaughnessy considered any trigger for referendum as curbing the power of the Board of Selectmen (BOS). The CRC decided not to peruse this issue.

Mrs. O'Shaughnessy read from the notes of the 1993 CRC which recommended the addition of a Town Manager/Town Administrator.

Mrs. O'Shaughnessy expressed concern that the next meeting of the CRC fell after the date on which the CRC would present their recommended changes to the BOS. Mr. Fader asked why they couldn't present in May. Mrs. O'Shaughnessy stated that the CRC was bound by state statute. There was concern that items would be left out of the presentation. Mr. Joyse reminded the CRC that there was nothing stopping the BOS from adding in any Charter revisions they see fit. Mr. Joyse stressed that meeting the deadlines was essential so that there could be no challenge to Charter revisions.

Mr. Joyse asked if the CRC was in agreement with going forward with the recommendation to hire a Town Manager. Mr. Stupinski said the CRC should recommend what they think is the best form of government for the town.

The CRC was concerned that the audience of the public hearing might not have represented the town at large. Mr. Palshaw said he saw change in people who were dead set against professional management and were now willing to accept a Town Administrator. He said that the CRC has a chance at a Town Administrator and no chance at a Town Manager.

Mr. Fader alluded to the idea that the Town Manager recommendation might be best but was also idealistic and not politically expedient.

Mr. Harvey said the CRC has educated the BOS to the point that they are capable to choose a Town Administrator even in the face of a recommendation for a Town Manager.

Mr. Fader was not in favor of recommending a Town Manager because there is a better chance of appointing a Town Administrator that could become a Town Manager than there is of appointing a Town Manager.

Mr. Roberson said if they recommend a Town Administrator they've got a shot at making a change and he would like to see a change.

*Mr. Fader moved to recommend the hiring of a Town Administrator, Mr. Roberson seconded the motion.*

Mr. Joyse said even though chances are much higher of getting a Town Administrator the CRC should still make the recommendation they feel is best. He suggested giving the BOS the opportunity to debate the merits of a Town Manager versus a Town Administrator. Mr. Harvey said Ellington needs a change.

Mr. Stupinski said he preferred recommending a Town Manager in order to give the BOS the option of going with a Town Manager, a Town Administrator, or nothing. He felt that doing otherwise would cut short an option for the BOS.

Mr. Roberson was concerned that any proposition of professional management would die at the BOS if the CRC recommended a Town Manager.

Mrs. O'Shaughnessy believed that Ellington was past the point where a Town Administrator would be useful.

Mr. Joyse said compared professional management of the town to professional management of the school system.

MOVED (FADER), SECONDED (ROBERSON), AND FAILED (AYE: FADER, ROBERSON; NAY: HARVEY, JOYSE, O'SHAUGHNESSY, STUPINSKI) TO RECOMMEND THE HIRING OF A TOWN ADMINISTRATOR.

Mr. Joyse suggested calling the First Selectman's office for the purpose of requesting a special meeting of the BOS in the end of April for the presentation of recommendations of Charter changes. The CRC agreed.

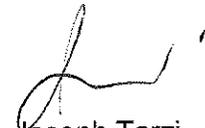
#### VI. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

#### VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (HARVEY), SECONDED (JOYSE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION AT 10:14 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph Tarzi  
Recording Secretary