



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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JAMES M. PRICHARD
Deputy First Selectman

MELINDA M. FERRY
AARON J. FOSTER
DAVID E. STAVENS
RONALD F. STOMBERG
JOHN W. TURNER

LORI L. SPIELMAN
First Selectman

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday, June 20, 2016
Town Hall – Meeting Hall

SELECTMEN PRESENT: Lori L. Spielman, Melinda M. Ferry, Aaron J. Foster, James M. Prichard, David E. Stavens, Ronald F. Stomberg, John W. Turner

OTHERS PRESENT: Robert Clements, Bill Correia, Dan Flanagan, Robert Harvey, Bruce Hoffman, Matthew Lontz, Rich Malone, Matt Mullin, Mark O'Donnell, Ellen O'Shaughnessy, Tom Palshaw, Michael Stupinski, Angie Sandberg, Corinne Sandberg, Andrew Slicer, Alisa Smith, Jim Spielman, Betsy Spielman, Nancy Stillman.

I. CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Spielman called the meeting of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. CITIZENS' FORUM

Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps

Chief Stillman of Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps (EVAC) expressed indignation at the hiring of a professional Emergency Medical Services Director without the consultation of the EVAC. She asked why a volunteer position was now becoming professional. She asked if the temporary nature of the position would be defined in the job description. Chief Stillman admitted to being blindsided by this appointment.

Assistant Chief Lontz echoed Chief Stillman's frustrations and acknowledged EVAC's struggles over the past year. He noted that Mike Varney had helped the EVAC through many of their struggles.

Chief Stillman indicated that the BOS liaison to EVAC, Mr. Turner, does not attend any of their meetings and implied that if he did the new position would not be necessary. Mr. Turner took exception to this statement and stated that he cannot attend the EVAC meetings because they are on the same nights as BOS meetings. Chief Stillman asked why the First Selectman isn't going to Mr. Turner with her concerns about EVAC.

Angie Sandberg of EVAC stated that the responsibilities of the new position are already being handled by the EVAC and that EVAC doesn't need any more help, just a little guidance.

Bruce Hoffman of EVAC accused the First Selectman of dodging the question of why she didn't consult with Mr. Turner if she had issues with EVAC.

Mr. Turner said that it was standard procedure for the BOS liaison to receive schedules and minutes of meetings and that he had not received such schedules and minutes since Chief Stillman took over.

Ms. Spielman noted that this action began when a wheel fell off of an ambulance.

Mr. Turner stated for the record that he supports the actions of the BOS on this matter.

Chief Stillman said that it felt like her department was being targeted.

Mr. Turner stated for the record that he thinks the best resolution to the questions at hand are to see EVAC demonstrate that it is a successful organization.

Corinne Sandberg made an appeal for order.

Andrew Slicer of the EVAC noted that there was a management change without transition last year but that the EVAC's problems can be easily corrected.

Charter Revision Commission

Mrs. O'Shaughnessy, the Chair of the Charter Revision Commission (CRC) addressed statements from the public hearing. She noted that a Town Manager would give Ellington more of a voice in the State and that the Town Manager doesn't have a vote, he is an employee of the Board of Selectmen. She contended that the cost of a Town Manager was exaggerated at the public hearing – she said there would be a savings due to the lessened responsibilities of the First Selectman. She said that adding a Town Manager would make the delivery of services more simple and efficient from election to election. She said that adding a Town Manager would simply be adding an employee, not growing government. Ultimately, she said, the Town Manager is under the full control of the BOS.

Mr. Correia directly refuted Mrs. O'Shaughnessy stating that it would cost \$300,000 to hire and outfit a Town Manager. He said he does not want Ellington to become another South Windsor.

Mr. Correia was upset by the appointment of Mr. Foster to the BOS without his consent.

Mr. Mullin expressed appreciation for the hard work of the CRC but disagreed with Mrs. O'Shaughnessy and said that adding a Town Manager is growing government.

Mr. Harvey of the CRC said that the appointment of a Town Manager would free up the First Selectman to focus on public policy.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Public Hearing Minutes of June 6, 2016

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG) AND PASSED (AYE: SPIELMAN, PRICHARD, FERRY, STAVENS, STOMBERG, TURNER; ABSTAIN: FOSTER) TO APPROVE THE PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES OF JUNE 6, 2016.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Charter Revision Draft Report

1. Shall vacancies of elective offices filled by Board of Selectmen appointment serve until the end of the term in which the vacancy occurred?

Ms. Spielman noted that the Board of Education had not been consulted on this proposed revision.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STOMBERG), AND FAILED (AYE: FERRY, STOMBERG, TURNER; NAY: FOSTER, PRICHARD, SPIELMAN, STAVENS) TO RECOMMEND THAT THE CRC INCLUDE AS A PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION, THE PROPOSAL TO CHANGE SECTION 205. VACANCIES-ELECTIVE OFFICERS, TO FILL VACANCIES OF ELECTIVE OFFICES THAT ARE FILLED BY BOARD OF SELECTMEN APPOINTMENT, TO SERVE UNTIL THE END OF THE TERM IN WHICH THE VACANCY OCCURRED.

2. Shall the Board of Library Directors be renamed to the Library Board of Trustees?

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (FOSTER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RECOMMEND THAT THE CRC INCLUDE AS A PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION, THE PROPOSAL TO CHANGE SECTION 302. ELECTION AND TERMS OF OFFICE: TOWN ELECTION: (d) TO RENAME THE BOARD OF LIBRARY DIRECTORS TO THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES, AS PRESCRIBED BY STATE STATUTES.

3. Shall the regular members of the Zoning Board of Appeals be prohibited from serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission?

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (FERRY), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RECOMMEND THAT THE CRC INCLUDE AS A PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION, THE PROPOSAL TO CHANGE SECTION 302. ELECTION AND TERMS OF OFFICE: TOWN ELECTION: (g), TO PROHIBIT REGULAR MEMBERS OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS FROM SERVING ON THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, AS PRESCRIBED BY STATE STATUTES.

4. Shall the provision that a special town referendum needs a majority equal to fifteen (15) percent of the qualified electors of the town in order to overrule the action of a town meeting be repealed?

Ms. Spielman was not in favor of this change.

Mr. Palshaw noted that this was his suggestion and that it accounted for the fact that a Town Meeting may have 30 people. He said the five percent signature threshold to overrule was enough and a simple majority in a referendum should be enough to overrule a Town Meeting.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD), AND PASSED (AYE: FERRY, PRICHARD, STOMBERG, TURNER; NAY: FOSTER, STAVENS) TO RECOMMEND THAT THE CRC NOT INCLUDE AS A PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION, THE PROPOSAL TO REPEAL THE PROVISION IN SECTION 605 THAT A SPECIAL TOWN REFERENDUM NEEDS A MAJORITY EQUAL TO FIFTEEN (15) PERCENT OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE TOWN IN ORDER TO OVERRULE THE ACTION OF A TOWN MEETING.

5. Shall the alternate members of the Zoning Board of Appeals be prohibited from serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission?

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (FOSTER), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RECOMMEND THAT THE CRC INCLUDE AS A PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION, THE PROPOSAL TO CHANGE SECTION 820. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS-ALTERNATES, TO PROHIBIT ALTERNATE MEMBERS OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS FROM SERVING ON THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION, AS PRESCRIBED BY STATE STATUTES.

6. Shall the section creating the Senior Center Endowment Fund Committee be repealed?

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (FERRY), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RECOMMEND THAT THE CRC INCLUDE AS A PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION, THE PROPOSAL TO REPEAL SECTION 823. SENIOR CENTER ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE.

7. Shall a section be created adding a permanent Design Review Board?

Mr. Foster asked how big the Design Review Board would be. Mr. Prichard replied that it is five members. Mr. Turner asked if the Design Review Board is very active. Ms. Spielman replied that they are. Mr. Turner asked if the Design Review Board had ability or was simply advisory. Mr. Prichard responded that they were advisory.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (STAVENS), AND PASSED (AYE: FERRY, FOSTER, STAVENS, STOMBERG, TURNER; NAY: PRICHARD) TO RECOMMEND THAT THE CRC INCLUDE AS A PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION, THE PROPOSAL TO ADD SECTION 827 DESIGN REVIEW BOARD TO THE CHARTER AND AMEND SECTION 922. TOWN PLANNER TO INCLUDE THAT THE TOWN PLANNER SHALL SERVE AS TECHNICAL ADVISOR.

8. Shall a section be created adding a permanent Patriotic Committee?

Mr. Turner asked why the CRC reduced the membership to five members. CRC members present did not know that Patriotic Committee had 12 members. The motion was amended to include 12 members.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RECOMMEND THAT THE CRC INCLUDE AS A PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION, THE PROPOSAL TO ADD SECTION 828. PATRIOTIC COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF 12 MEMBERS WHO SERVE FOR STAGGERED TERMS OF FOUR YEARS TO DEVELOP, PLAN, ARRANGE, SUPERVISE, AND CONDUCT PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES THAT FOSTER PRIDE AND PATRIOTISM AMONG THE CITIZENS OF THE TOWN AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUCH PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES TO THE BOS FOR APPROVAL.

9. Shall the wording of Section 917 be amended to strike language that the Board of Selectmen is to appoint a Fire Marshal within 30 days?

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RECOMMEND THAT THE CRC INCLUDE AS A PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION, THE

PROPOSAL TO STRIKE THE LANGUAGE IN SECTION 917. FIRE MARSHAL THAT THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN IS TO APPOINT A FIRE MARSHAL WITHIN 30 DAYS.

10. Shall language be added allowing the Fire Marshal to appoint and remove deputies, assistants, and employees in his or her office, subject to approval of the Board of Selectmen?

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RECOMMEND THAT THE CRC INCLUDE AS A PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION, THE PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 917. FIRE MARSHAL BY ADDING THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE, "SAID FIRE MARSHAL MAY APPOINT AND REMOVE DEPUTIES, ASSISTANTS, AND EMPLOYEES IN HIS OR HER OFFICE, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND SUBJECT TO RULES AND REGULATIONS CONCERNING TOWN EMPLOYEES AS MAY BE ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN."

11. Shall the minimum monetary amount that would require competitive bidding be increased from \$7,500 to \$25,000?

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (FERRY), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RECOMMEND THAT THE CRC INCLUDE AS A PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION, THE PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 1011. PURCHASING, TO CHANGE THE MINIMUM MONETARY AMOUNT REQUIRING COMPETITIVE BIDDING BE SET AT \$25,000, AS PRESCRIBED BY STATE STATUTES.

12. Shall the Charter be amended to allow the Board of Selectmen to appoint a Town Manager?

Mr. Clements said that the primary purpose of the CRC was to choose between a Town Administrator and a Town Manager. He contended that if nothing is broken there is no need for a fix. He suggested hiring a grant writer. He said that Ellington is a great place to live and saw no problem for a Town Manager to fix.

Mr. Stupinski said that it would behoove the Town not to wait until something were broken to hire a Town Manager. He said it was a matter of preventing things from breaking.

Mr. Harvey said that the Town Manager would have no more power than the First Selectman. Mr. Prichard disagreed with this assessment.

Mr. Prichard believed that the salary of a Town Manager would be the same as the Superintendent of Schools.

Mr. Clements said there does not need to be a professional to oversee the professionals who run the individual departments.

Mr. Mullin considered the appointment of a Town Manager as an insult to the First Selectman.

Ms. Sandberg hoped that the BOS would give the townspeople the opportunity to vote on a Town Manager.

Mr. Correia asked if anyone had talked to other Town Managers. The members of the CRC present said they had.

Mr. Turner originally made the following motion:

MOVE TO RECOMMEND THAT THE CRC INCLUDE AS A PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION, THE PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 901. OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS AND ADD SECTION 924. TOWN MANAGER TO THE TOWN MANAGER POSITION.

Mr. Turner made a motion to change the word "include" to "not include".

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD) AND PASSED (AYE: PRICHARD, SPIELMAN, STAVENS, TURNER; NAY: FERRY, FOSTER, STOMBERG) TO CHANGE THE WORD "INCLUDE" TO "NOT INCLUDE".

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD), AND PASSED (AYE: PRICHARD, SPIELMAN, STAVENS, TURNER; NAY: FERRY, FOSTER, STOMBERG) TO RECOMMEND THAT THE CRC NOT INCLUDE AS A PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION, THE PROPOSAL TO AMEND SECTION 901. OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS AND ADD SECTION 924. TOWN MANAGER TO THE TOWN MANAGER POSITION.

13. Shall the Charter be amended to include corrections to spelling, syntax, punctuation, capitalization, and grammar that do not affect the meaning of the Charter?

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (FOSTER), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RECOMMEND THAT THE CRC INCLUDE AS A PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION, THE PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE CHARTER TO INCLUDE CORRECTIONS TO SPELLING, SYNTAX, PUNCTUATION, CAPITALIZATION, AND GRAMMAR THAT DO NOT AFFECT THE MEANING OF THE CHARTER.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Appointments to the Ellington Housing Authority

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (FOSTER), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT WAYNE REYNOLDS TO THE ELLINGTON HOUSING AUTHORITY TO COMPLETE AN UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2020.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPOINT DENNIS VARNEY TO THE ELLINGTON HOUSING AUTHORITY TO COMPLETE AN UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2020.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. For the Purpose of Strategy and Negotiations with Respect to Collective Bargaining;
Re: 2016-2019 Police Union Contract

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (FERRY), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:55 P.M. FOR THE PURPOSE OF STRATEGY AND NEGOTIATION WITH RESPECT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RE: 2016-2019 POLICE UNION CONTRACT.

PRESENT: BOS Members

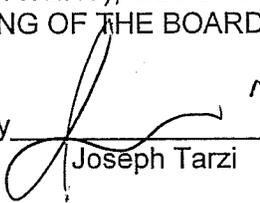
The BOS came out of Executive Session at 9:08 p.m.

MOVED (TURNER), SECONDED (PRICHARD), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RATIFY THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON AND THE ELLINGTON POLICE UNION, LOCAL 2693 OF COUNCIL 4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2019 AND AUTHORIZE THE FIRST SELECTMAN TO EXECUTE SUCH CONTRACT.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (STAVENS), SECONDED (PRICHARD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT 9:10 P.M.

Submitted by


Joseph Tarzi

Approved by


Lori L. Spielman