



Ellen O'Shaughnessy
Chairman

Mark Joyse
Vice Chairman

STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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JUL 13 2016

ELLINGTON TOWN CLERK

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

Charter Revision Commission

MEETING MINUTES
JULY 13, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark Joyse (Vice Chairman), Ellen O'Shaughnessy (Chairman),
John L. Daigle, Jr., Robert Harvey

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dale Roberson, Michael Stupinski, Bruce Fader

OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Palshaw, Ronald Stomberg (Selectman)

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman O'Shaughnessy called the meeting of the Charter Revision Commission (CRC) to order at 7:02 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. April 13, 2016 CRC Meeting

MOVED (JOYSE), SECONDED (DAIGLE), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE APRIL 13, 2016 PUBLIC HEARING CRC MEETING MINUTES AS CORRECTED.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review Board of Selectmen Recommendations from the June 20, 2016 Board of Selectmen Meeting

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

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) voted not to recommend this change because it would make undue changes to the Board of Education (BOE). The CRC agreed with this assessment and agreed not to recommend this charter revision.

MOVED (JOYSE), SECONDED (HARVEY), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGARDING VACANCIES OF ELECTED OFFICES.

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

The BOS voted to accept this charter revision. The CRC took no action on this charter revision.

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

The BOS voted to accept this charter revision. The CRC took no action on this charter revision.

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to fifteen (15) percent of the qualified electors of the town in order to overrule the action of a town meeting be repealed?

The BOS voted to reject this charter revision.

Mr. Palshaw spoke in favor of this charter revision as the current system gave more weight to the few voters who attend a town meeting than to the hundreds who vote in referendums.

Mr. Joyse said that the 15 percent threshold creates an undue burden on those who want to challenge a town meeting.

The CRC agreed to recommend this charter revision.

MOVED (JOYSE), SECONDED (HARVEY), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REJECT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGARDING THE 15 PERCENT THRESHOLD.

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

The BOS voted to accept this charter revision. The CRC took no action on this charter revision.

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

The BOS voted to accept this charter revision. The CRC took no action on this charter revision.

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

MOVED (HARVEY), SECONDED (JOYSE), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGARDING A PERMANENT DESIGN REVIEW BOARD.

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

The CRC had recommended that the Patriotic Committee be reduced to five members. The BOS accepted this charter revision but revised the recommendation to include the current 12 members.

MOVED (JOYSE), SECONDED (HARVEY), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGARDING A PERMANENT PATRIOTIC COMMITTEE.

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?

The BOS voted to accept this charter revision. The CRC took no action on this charter revision.

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?

The BOS voted to accept this charter revision. The CRC took no action on this charter revision.

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

The BOS voted to accept this charter revision. The CRC took no action on this charter revision.

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

The BOS voted to reject this charter revision.

Mr. Harvey suggested that in addition to rejecting the BOS recommendation the CRC should communicate clearly to the BOS why the recommendation was rejected.

Mr. Joyse thanked the selectmen who voted for the recommendation.

Mrs. O'Shaughnessy read a letter, to be included in the CRC Final Report, regarding the need for a Town Manager.

Mr. Palshaw said that he didn't see the political will to put a Town Manager in place yet. He suggested that more details needed to be fleshed out before a Town Manager would be acceptable to the people of Ellington.

Mr. Harvey agreed with Mr. Palshaw but said that the CRC is not tasked with determining the details of hiring a Town Manager, that responsibility should fall on the BOS. He said that the proposal deserves to be on the ballot.

Mr. Joyse said that if the CRC had come to consensus earlier it may have been possible to flesh out a more detailed proposal.

The CRC agreed to include Mrs. O'Shaughnessy's letter in the final report.

The CRC voted to reject the recommendation of the BOS.

MOVED (JOYSE), SECONDED (DAIGLE), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REJECT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGARDING THE HIRING OF A TOWN MANAGER.

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?

The BOS voted to accept this charter revision. The CRC took no action on this charter revision.

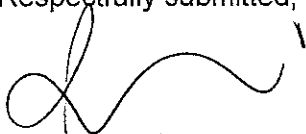
B. Determine Revisions and Approve Final Report Items.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

VI. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (JOYSE), SECONDED (HARVEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION AT 8.00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph Tarzi
Recording Secretary