

PRESS RELEASE

May 27, 2015

Maurice Blanchette, First Selectman

Town of Ellington

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PRESS RELEASE:

Charter Revision Commission Considers Change of Government

In February of this year, the Board of Selectmen convened a Charter Revision Commission to review the Town Charter and offer suggestions for changes in the face of a growing and evolving community. Since then, the Charter Revision Commission members have been meeting monthly to research and discuss what changes, if any, might need to be considered. As part of this, the Commission was charged by the Board of Selectman with the mission of considering if the current Board of Selectmen/Town Meeting form of government is still the most efficient way to manage the administrative affairs of the Town, given its population growth and the increasing complexity of its municipal affairs. To help in this task the Commission has contacted professionals and experts in other effective government forms, and is listening to suggestions from members of the Town's boards who believe that there needs to be a change. The most common suggestion is hiring a Professional Administrator to work with or for the Selectmen in some capacity, who would assume some duties of the First Selectman, among other tasks. There are several reasons why this may be appropriate, including increasing administrative efficiency and strengthening public relations with State and Federal agencies, not to mention more awareness of how to seek and secure non-traditional funding sources, such as grants, to augment declining State and Federal government assistance. The Town held an Open Forum in March for residents to come and make their own suggestions, but it should also be noted that all the meetings are open to the public, and the Commission continues to welcome input. The next Charter Revision Commission meeting will be held at the Town Hall on Wednesday, June 24, 2015, at 7:00 pm. Anyone wanting to be part of this process is welcome to attend. Further, the minutes of all Charter Revision Commission meetings are posted on the Town of Ellington web site for anyone interested in following our deliberations at ellington-ct.gov. The Charter Revision Commission members will continue to keep the Town informed as this process evolves.

Ellen O'Shaughnessy, Chairman
Ellington Charter Revision Commission