

## III. CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION – FINAL REPORT

MOVED (SCUDIERI), SECONDED (FRAWLEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE FINAL REPORT FROM THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION AND TO THANK THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION MEMBERS FOR THEIR TIME AND EFFORT.

The BOS reviewed each proposed Charter revision and took the following action:

MOVED (SCUDIERI), SECONDED (FRAWLEY) AND PASSED [AYE: FRAWLEY/HARFORD/MILLER/STUPINSKI; NAY: SCUDIERI/PRICHARD/CHARTER] TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION/BALLOT QUESTION: **SHALL THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION BE APPOINTED?**

MOVED (HARFORD), SECONDED (CHARTER) AND PASSED [AYE: FRAWLEY/HARFORD/MILLER/STUPINSKI; NAY: SCUDIERI/PRICHARD/CHARTER] TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION/BALLOT QUESTION: **SHALL THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS BE APPOINTED?**

MOVED (FRAWLEY), SECONDED (CHARTER) AND FAILED [AYE: SCUDIERI; NAY: FRAWLEY/CHARTER/HARFORD/MILLER/PRICHARD] TO COMBINE THE ABOVE QUESTIONS AS FOLLOWS: SHALL THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION AND THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS BE APPOINTED?

MOVED (CHARTER), SECONDED (FRAWLEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION/BALLOT QUESTION: **SHALL THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION CONSIST OF 7 REGULAR AND 2 ALTERNATE MEMBERS AND THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS CONSIST OF 5 REGULAR AND 3 ALTERNATE MEMBERS?**

MOVED (CHARTER), SECONDED (MILLER) TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION/BALLOT QUESTION: **SHALL A SHARED SERVICES COMMISSION BE ESTABLISHED FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECOMMENDING AREAS (BUILDING MAINTENANCE, FINANCE, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, ETC) WHERE THE SHARING OF SUPPORT SERVICES BETWEEN THE TOWN AND THE BOARD OF EDUCATION IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF TOWN RESIDENTS BY INCREASING EFFICIENCY AND REDUCING COSTS?**

## Discussion:

Mr. Charter disagreed with forming a Shared Services Commission and suggested that the First Selectman, Superintendent of Schools, Business Director, Finance Officer and Director of Public Works meet periodically to determine what areas can be shared services. Mr. Pagani disagreed, noting that Department Heads who do not live in Town or pay taxes in Town should not be the sole participants in determining shared services. He felt that citizen input was essential. Mr. Roberson stated that once the three major areas (finance, information technology, maintenance) have been examined there will be no major issues to bring to the table and they will have no reason to meet. He suggested that the BOS keep shared services as an ad hoc committee. Mr. Stupinski stated that the Shared Services Commission will need to consistently review services to determine savings. He did not agree with Mr. Charter's proposal, adding that the four citizens on the Commission will bring a degree of impartiality.

VOTE: AYE: FRAWLEY/ MILLER/PRICHARD/SCUDIERI; NAY: HARFORD/CHARTER;  
MOTION PASSED.

MOVED (SCUDIERI), SECONDED (CHARTER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION/BALLOT QUESTION: **SHALL THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN ANNUALLY REVIEW AND MODIFY GOALS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS?**

The above question was modified from what the CRC had proposed. The BOS decided not to include "The Board of Selectmen will review and approve all general government budgets before submitting to the Board of Finance". The consensus was that it would add another layer of review to the budget process. Mr. Pagani stated that this change would be more appropriate if or when there is a change to Town government.

MOVED (HARFORD), SECONDED (MILLER) AND FAILED [AYE: FRAWLEY/ HARFORD/MILLER; NAY: SCUDIERI/CHARTER/PRICHARD/STUPINSKI] TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION/BALLOT QUESTION: **SHALL THE ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING BE ADJOURNED TO A REFERENDUM?**

MOVED (FRAWLEY), SECONDED (CHARTER) AND PASSED [AYE: FRAWLEY/ HARFORD/MILLER/ PRICHARD/CHARTER; NAY: SCUDIERI] TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION/BALLOT QUESTION: **IF THE ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING IS ADJOURNED TO A REFERENDUM, SHALL IT THEN AUTOMATICALLY BE SENT TO ANOTHER REFERENDUM UNTIL FINAL APPROVAL IS GIVEN?**

MOVED (CHARTER), SECONDED (HARFORD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION/BALLOT QUESTION: **SHALL SPECIFIED FINANCIAL LIMITS BE INCREASED AS RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE OFFICER AND THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION TO RECOGNIZE INFLATION?**

MOVED (HARFORD), SECONDED (CHARTER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION/BALLOT QUESTION: **SHALL PURCHASES THAT EXCEED \$1,000,000 BE SENT TO REFERENDUM?**

MOVED (MILLER), SECONDED (CHARTER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION/BALLOT QUESTION: **SHALL NON-RESIDENTS, EMPLOYEES AND TAXPAYERS BE APPOINTED TO AD HOC (TEMPORARY) COMMITTEES?**

MOVED (FRAWLEY), SECONDED (CHARTER) TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION/BALLOT QUESTION: **SHALL THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION BE REPEALED AND REPLACED WITH NEW EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION AND EXPAND THE DUTIES AND TERM OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT?**

## Discussion:

Mr. Stupinski stated that he was opposed to forming an Emergency Management Commission as he felt it was not necessary as the emergency services do a good job and they do not need a commission to oversee their agencies. Mr. Olmstead explained that the Commission would assist the Emergency Management Director and provide input on how to handle natural disasters. Mr. Shook stated that the proposal is to form a planning-type commission to ensure state and federal regulations are met. Mr. Davis stated that the State Statutes outline the duties of the Emergency Management Director which includes assisting the Chief Executive Officer in requesting help at the federal level. He noted that he has two deputies and mutual aid agreements with the Town of Tolland and the Town of Vernon. Mr. Davis stated that President Bush has endorsed the formation of a Citizen Emergency Response Team which will assist the Emergency Management Director at the Town's emergency operations center. Training and equipment for these teams will be provided to Town by the Federal Government.

VOTED: ALL OPPOSED; MOTION FAILED.

MOVED (FRAWLEY), SECONDED (CHARTER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION/BALLOT QUESTION: **SHALL A SENIOR CENTER ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE AND FLOOD AND EROSION CONTROL BOARD BE ESTABLISHED IN THE CHARTER, PER TOWN ORDINANCE?**

MOVED (MILLER), SECONDED (FRAWLEY) TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION/BALLOT QUESTION: **SHALL AN ETHICS COMMISSION BE ESTABLISHED IN THE CHARTER?**

## Discussion:

Mr. Charter was opposed to establishing an Ethics Commission, noting that he would rather have a third party investigate ethics violations rather than a local board. Mr. Miller was in favor of a Ethics Commission and suggested that members be appointed by unanimous vote by the BOS. Mr. Frawley supports this revision and felt the voters should decide if an Ethics Commission is needed in Ellington.

VOTE: AYE: FRAWLEY/ MILLER/SCUDIERI/STUPINSKI; NAY: HARFORD/CHARTER/ PRICHARD; MOTION PASSED.

MOVED (HARFORD), SECONDED (CHARTER) TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION/BALLOT QUESTION: **SHALL SECTION 918. FIRE DEPARTMENT AND SECTION 920. AMBULANCE SERVICE BE REPEALED AND REPLACED WITH SECTION 923. EMERGENCY SERVICES?**

It was noted that the first sentence of the explanation for this question needs to be revised as follows: Emergency Services to the Town of Ellington will be provided by Ellington Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., Crystal Lake Fire District and Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Inc. and any successor agencies.

VOTE: ALL IN FAVOR; MOTION PASSED.

MOVED (HARFORD), SECONDED (CHARTER) TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION/BALLOT QUESTION: **SHALL THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO SEPARATE THE TOWN'S OPERATING BUDGET AND THE TOWN'S EDUCATION BUDGET AFTER IT HAS FAILED AT LEAST ONCE AT REFERENDUM?**

Discussion:

Mr. Pagani stated that in order to issue tax bills, both the Town's operating budget and the Board of Education budget need to be approved. Mr. Roberson stated that separating the budgets creates two separate camps and sends the wrong message to the residents.

VOTE: AYE: HARFORD/ MILLER/ PRICHARD/CHARTER; NAY: SCUDIERI/FRAWLEY;  
MOTION PASSED

MOVED (MILLER), SECONDED (FRAWLEY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION/BALLOT QUESTION: **SHALL ALL GRANTS THAT HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO IMPOSE ANY FINANCIAL BURDEN ON THE TOWN BE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND THE BOARD OF FINANCE PRIOR TO ACCEPTANCE AND TO ESTABLISH SEPARATE FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING MONEY OTHER THAN FROM TAXES?**

MOVED (MILLER), SECONDED (CHARTER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION/BALLOT QUESTION: **SHALL TECHNICAL CHANGES BE MADE TO THE CHARTER TO COMPLY WITH STATE STATUTES AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS AND TO CLARIFY AMBIGUITIES AND FORMAT?**

MOVED (SCUDIERI), SECONDED (CHARTER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO FORWARD RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS TO THE TOWN CHARTER, AS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN, TO THE TOWN ATTORNEY FOR REVIEW BEFORE PUBLICATION IN A LOCAL NEWSPAPER.

Mr. Stupinski thanked the Charter Revision Commission for a job well done. Mr. Wehr stated that the CRC spent some time considering a proposal to change the current form of government but the issue is complex and needed more time. He asked the BOS to consider appointing an Ad Hoc Committee to study a change in Town Government for the next Charter Revision Commission to address.