

**TOWN OF SOMERS
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 29, 2012-7:00 PM
SELECTMEN'S CONFERENCE ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tim Potrikus at 7:00 pm. Also present were regular members: Erik Ness, Linda Roberts, Ralph Williams and Bill McGurk. Also present was Ann Logan, Town Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (May 14, 2012)

Tim Potrikus a motion to approve the May 14, 2012 minutes as written. Erik Ness seconded it. All were in favor, motion carried.

DISCUSSION OF CHAPTERS 4-8:

The inconsistency of terms was discussed among board members. Terms currently range from 3- 6 years. The current term expiration date is 12/22/2012. This will be an item to be presented for discussion at the public hearing.

It was noted in section 6-5 there was some terminology regarding the Board of Tax Review that needed clarification.

Members discussed section 5-4 needing to refer to "Roberts Rules". It was noted that clarification was need regarding the definition of a simple majority. Ann Logan felt it important to suggest to the committee to include within the charter that a quorum be defined as *a simple majority of regular members, not including alternates.*

Charter members would like to get feedback at the public hearing regarding the combining of the Planning Commission and Zoning Commission. This has been an ongoing issue and members agree it needs to be discussion at the hearing. Currently the Planning and Zoning Commission are split.

Section 6-7 was discussed. The fact that special appropriations must first be receive a recommendation from the Board of Finance before going to a town vote seemed ambiguous to Mr. Potrikus. Ann Logan offered to check to see if this charter regulation was statute or not. She will get back to members regarding this section.

Section 6-8e needed review. Mr. Potrikus was unclear what "statutory powers" are given to the Board of Finance. It was agreed this needs clarification.

Section 7-3 was discussed. Mr. Potrikus mentioned this section said nothing regarding importance of referendums. It was noted by others board members that section 7-1 clarified this in the charter. It was agreed this issue is taken care of in section 7-1.

Members discussed the importance of getting a 15% turnout to pass the charter revision. The issue of whether or not to have the charter revision as a special election or include it with the municipal election was discussed.

The following motion was made by Ralph Williams: "In light of the Office of Legislative Research report provided to the commission, which says that approval of any charter proposals submitted at a special election requires a majority equal to at least 15 percent of the total electorate, it is the consensus of the commission's members that any charter proposals should not be submitted for voters approval earlier than the November 2013 general election."

"Consequently, the commission asks the selectmen whether its charge as now set will allow it to conduct its business along a time frame that would allow a November 2013 vote."

Seconded by Erik Ness, all were in favor. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS/AGENDA FOR JUNE 11, 2012 MEETING:

- Report back from selectmen on revised schedule.
- Section 7-1b. Limiting the number of times the budget goes out for referendum.
- Section 5-18. Civil Preparedness. Residency/Position requirements.
- Definition of a legal requirement for a public hearing in the charter.
- Media questions regarding statutes on where to publish town meetings....newspapers, internet, etc.
- Section 7-6. Conformation of certain appointments.
- Section 5-10 Board of Fire Commissioners
- Looking at how many Ordinances there and reviewing contents therein.

In closing, Mr Potrikus mentioned he would review his own notes, input from selectmen/board members and minutes to gather questions and info for topics of discussion at the first public hearing.

He will have a draft ready for the board members review by June 25th meeting. Mr Potrikus found out the Elementary School is available for the public hearing. He will find out if there is a cost to the town to have the hearing at the school. Members agreed parking would be much easier at the school.

Tim Potrikus motioned to adjourn the Charter revision meeting at 8:00 pm. Seconded by Bill McCurk, all in favor, motion carried.