

**CHARTER REVISION  
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES  
OCT 10, 2012  
7:00PM TOWN HALL**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The public hearing was called to order at 7:07 by Chairman Tim Potrikus. Members present were Bill McGurk, Linda Roberts, Ralph Williams. Erik Ness was absent.

Mr. Potrikus read an opening statement. He explained the goal of the public hearing was to get community feedback and gather information. He then proceeded to open up the public hearing for public comments.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**a. Carol Pyne 46 Sunset Drive Somers, CT**

Mrs. Pyne gave commission members a typed written statement of her comments. She does NOT think the appointed terms should be changed. She feels the Selectman's position should be kept at two years. She feels the experience of long term members on boards and commissions is necessary for consistent running of these groups. She is NOT in favor of a town manager. She agrees the First Selectman's position should be clarified. She is in favor of Elected Constables. She feels the people who live in the town should be running the town. She feels the Zoning and Planning Commission should NOT be combined..she votes to keep them separate. She votes YES on the education and town budgets being voted on individually. She votes NO on eliminating the tag sale tax.

**b. Donna Doyker 743 Stafford Rd Somers, CT**

Mrs. Doyker feels the charter revisions should be spelled out individually on the next referendum. She feels the Constable position is very helpful and important and it SHOULD NOT be eliminated. She feels Constables should be more utilized to the town's benefit by using them to help the police, fire dept. security, etc.

**c. Jett Ladd Mountain Rd Somers, CT**

Mr. Ladd was OK with changing appointed terms. He felt it was best to keep term of selectmen the way it is. He is NOT in favor of changing town conformation appts. He said YES too modifying the required residency. He felt it may be easier to combine the Zoning and Planning Commissions. He felt strongly on voting on the Town and Education budgets individually. Mr. Ladd stated that 47.5% of the property in Somers is already locked up in ordinances. Discussed subdivision fees. He feels these fees are becoming overbearing.

**d. Sarah Bollinger Somers, CT**

Mrs. Bollinger wanted clarification on why town conformations are looking at being changed. She feels more clarification on job descriptions for town manager and selectman's position is needed. She ask about timing of changing these positions. She is NOT in favor of eliminating the Board of Assessors. She is NOT in favor of eliminating constables. She feels they can be very helpful in the town. Supports

blight ordinance.

**e. Dave Olsen 29 Colonial Drive Somers, CT**

**He stated he is neither for nor against eliminating the Board of Assessors.** He does feel however, they are very helpful in the community and have helped a lot over the years when things have been very busy.

**f. Dave Reed Mountain View Rd. Somers, CT**

Votes YES to clarify the First Selectman's position. Discussed expanding state expenditures. Mr. Reed feels the town does not need a town manager. He feels most people in the town would NOT want to separate the Town and Education budget. He presented the commission with some info on the anti blight issue. Does not feel term limits are not the answer, elections are more important. Feels the Charter Revision questions should be written one by one in order for people to vote well informed. Discussed residency requirement issue. Mr. Reed explained it is better to hire a qualified person who does not live in the town versus hiring an unqualified candidate who lives in the town. He feels the town may be limiting themselves to the talent pool if they only accept applicants from Somers.

**g. Richard Carey Somers, CT**

Voted YES on having Zoning and Planning Commissions combined. Suggested 3 years terms for Board of Selectman with stagger terms so everyone is not being elected at the same time. Votes NO on having a Town Manager. Votes YES on Constables. Discussed issue of recycling center. Agrees with Board of Assessors staying the way it is. Discussed over usage of signs in the town.

**h. David McCafferty**

Feels strongly Constables should be used to help the town. He feels it is a good service that can be utilized efficiently by the town.

**I. Mike Parker 41 Mansfield Rd.**

He expressed that it takes awhile for people to understand how the town works, etc so when you find someone who is willing learn and continue to serve he does not think they should be made to step down. He feels there should be no arbitrary cut off.

**Public comments were completed and Mr. Potrikus moved on the the next portion of the public hearing.**

**III. EXPLANATION OF HOW TO PROCEED**

Mr. Potrikus gave information on when and where the Charter Revision meetings were. He explained info would continue to be gathered and the recommendations would be passed on to the First Selectmen. The Charter Revision will continue to deliberate until Feb 2013 time frame and the questions will be raised and put on the Nov 2013 general election ballot. The info and meeting minutes will be on the town website for review.

**IV. CONCLUSION OF PUBLIC HEARING/MEETING.** Meeting concluded at 7:42 pm.