

**TOWN OF SOMERS
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 3, 2015
Held Immediately following Public Hearing at 7:00PM – Somers Town Hall**

1. Call to Order.

- a. Meeting was called to order at approximately 7:40 p.m. by Vice Chairman Ralph Williams.

2. Members Present.

- a. The following members were in attendance: B. Pellissier, E. Ness, R. Williams, K. Burger.

3. Approval of Minutes from February 17, 2015.

- a. Motion by B. Pellissier to adopt minutes as drafted, seconded by K. Burger- voted unanimously in favor.

4. Add/Delete Agenda Items.

- a. No additions or deletions.

5. Discuss issues or concerns raised during Public Hearing of March 3, 2015 concerning the proposed Charter Revisions.

- a. It was discussed that the primary issues raised at the public hearing involved the understanding of the process and that removing Section 5-10 would not leave the town without a Fire Chief. It was the collective understanding of the Commission members that the process of developing and potentially adopting the currently proposed Fire Commission Ordinance, contemplates these concerns. It was the collective understanding of the commission members that if the Fire Commission Ordinance is adopted, it will be done so prior to any vote to remove Section 5-10 from the Charter; and even if the Fire Commission Ordinance is adopted, the Charter will control until Section 5-10 is removed. It was the further collective understanding of the Commission members that if a vote to remove Section 5-10 fails, the Charter will remain the controlling document, even if a Fire Ordinance is adopted. It was the further collective understanding of the Commission members that as a matter of timing, a Fire Commission Ordinance must be adopted as a condition precedent to any future town vote to consider the removal of Section 5-10; in other words, a town vote to remove Section 5-10 can never be held if an approved Fire Commission Ordinance is not already in place.

6. Discuss and Possibly Vote on Deleting Section 5-10 Board of Fire Commissioners, from the Charter.

- a. B. Pellissier moved to delete Section 5-10 from the Charter, seconded by K. Burger, the motion passed with all present members voting in favor.

- 7. Discuss relevant dates for timely completion of charter review process and schedule future meetings and hearings.**
 - a. The March 9, 2015 meeting was cancelled as unnecessary.
 - b. A public hearing will be noticed and held on Tuesday, March 24th at 7:00 p.m. at the Somers Town Hall to discuss the Commission's decision to recommend the removal of Section 5-10 from the Charter.
 - c. A Charter Revision Commission meeting will be held immediately following the 7:00 p.m. hearing on March 24th at the Somers Town Hall.
- 8. Action Items and Agenda for next meeting.**
 - a. Discussion of comments and potential concerns raised at March 24, 2015 public hearing.
 - b. Discuss and potentially vote to approve the Commission's official recommendation to Board of Selectmen.
- 9. Adjournment.**
 - a. Motion by B. Pellessier, seconded by E. Ness to adjourn the Charter Revision Meeting at approximately 7:55.

Minutes Not Official Until Approved at a Subsequent Meeting