

TOWN OF SOMERS  
Charter Revision Commission  
PUBLIC HEARING

Minutes  
April 18, 2018  
7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall Auditorium

Ann Logan, Town Clerk; Commission Members Terri Henderson, Andy Rockett, Graham Van Keuren,  
Ralph Williams

Also in attendance: Teri Schmidt, Mr. & Mrs. Hutton, Bob Chester, Judy & Tom Mehl

1. Call to Order

- a. 7:00 p.m. Meeting called to order by Andy Rockett, Chairman

2. Public Hearing Discussion

- a. Andy Rockett indicated there were two audience members who were joining the Charter Commission and introduced Teri Schmidt and Bob Chester.
- b. Andy Rockett read the charge of the Charter Commission and the purpose of tonight's meeting and opened the floor for comments.
- c. Mr. Hutton voiced he did not feel the town was ready for a town manager, the current form of government has worked for years. He voiced he would like to see the Town Clerk position stay an elected position. He wants residents to have a say. He indicated combining Zoning and Planning have been talked about forever, he has no opinion on it. He would rather residents have more say.
- d. Ann Logan, Town Clerk, asked the Charter Commission to consider:
  - 1. Economic Development Committee: Current 5-year terms, asked commission to change to 4 year terms consistent with all other commissions.
  - 2. Review the term of registrar of voters. Currently a 2-year term. Would recommend a 4-year term due to mandated certification and state oversight and training needs.
  - 3. Ann Logan also spoke as a resident/Town Clerk and said she agreed with the charge made by the Selectmen, a town manager form of government is needed. Along with that should be an appointed Town Clerk. She also agreed with combining planning and zoning. She indicated many of positions are won on politics and popularity. With law requirement and filings, need a professional, trained staff. If the town moved to a town manager, suggested the board of selectmen increase from 3 to 5. Instead of a council, board or town manager approving the town budget, suggests leaving it to the people to vote on. She indicated you cannot have a town manager and an elected town clerk. She said the finance/accounting departments have a review panel, she would like to see all employees reviewed annually. There is certification and training for a town clerk, however, there is no formal training for the selectmen. There are delays between the zoning and planning groups regarding meetings and the customer has to wait until an agreed upon time. Ann Logan stated there are fewer and fewer volunteers. The pool is small and it is difficult to fill positions as seen on the commissions. Ann Logan indicated both Granby and Hebron are similar to Somers (8-10,000 population) and have town managers.
  - 4. Judy Mehl stressed she didn't want citizens giving up what little rights they have

The public adjourned at 7:26 PM