

TOWN OF SOMERS
Charter Revision Commission

Minutes
May 23, 2018
7:00 p.m.

Town Hall Lower Level Conference Room

Ann Logan, Town Clerk; Commission Members Terri Henderson, Andy Rockett, Graham Van Keuren,
Ralph Williams , Bob Chester, Teri Schmidt
Guest Speakers: John Ward, Town Manager, Granby, CT
Joyce Stille, Administrative Officer, Bolton, CT

1. Call to Order
 - a. 7:08 p.m. Meeting called to order by Andy Rockett, Chairman
2. Approval of Minutes May 16, 2018.
 - a. Ralph Williams made a motion to approve the May 16, 2018 minutes. Seconded by Teri Schmidt. All in favor. PASSED (5-0-1 Terri Henderson abstained)
3. Guest Speakers
John Ward, Town Manager of Granby, CT and Joyce Stille, Administrative Officer of Bolton, CT gave a power point presentation regarding different types of town government, advantages and disadvantages and answered questions from the Charter Commission members.
4. Gender Neutral Terminology
Andy Rockett shared under Sec 7-193 (2), language regarding the Chief Executive Officer. It signifies the language to be used when addressing Selectman and therefore, the Charter Commission does not have the ability to review the language or change it.
5. Form of Government
 - a. Subcommittee Reporting
Ralph Williams shared the subcommittee's information gathering and shared the subcommittee felt the town should move forward with a day to day administrator due to the complexity of the position, continuity, negotiations, networking potential. Time requirements of the position also limits qualified candidates. Charter commission members shared their thoughts and Ralph Williams offered to draft Charter Commission recommendations for the full Commission to review and discuss next meeting.
6. Public Hearing
 - a. The Commission agreed to move the 2nd Public Hearing to June 13th.
7. Correspondence
 - a. The request to review the Economic Development Committee member terms to 4 years will not be reviewed. The Board of Selectmen responded they prefer to keep the terms as they are and not added to the charter.
 - b. Andy Rockett spoke to Mike Marinaccio regarding language in Chapter VII, Meeting, Sec 7-1 Annual And Special Meetings and proposed language to clarify. After discussion, the following was proposed:
 - (b) Adoption Endorsement of the Annual Budget to send to referendum shall be by vote of the Annual Town Meeting. Prior to endorsing the Annual Budget, the meeting shall have the power to decrease any appropriation or item in the appropriationRalph Williams motioned to adopt the language proposed. Bob Chester seconded. All in favor PASSED (6-0)

- c. Kim Lord, Finance Director for the Town of Manchester was unable to attend the meeting tonight and sent an email regarding town management.

8. Adjourn

- a. Ralph Williams made a motion to adjourn at 9:02 pm. Bob Chester seconded. All in favor. PASSED (6-0).

Sec. 7-193. Required provisions. Organization of government. (a) Any charter adopted or amended under the provisions of this chapter shall conform to the following requirements:

(1) The municipality shall have a legislative body, which may be: (A) A town meeting; (B) a representative town meeting; (C) a board of selectmen, council, board of directors, board of aldermen or board of burgesses; or (D) a combination of a town meeting or representative town meeting and one of the bodies listed in subparagraph (C). In any combination, the body having the greater number of members shall have the power to adopt the annual budget and shall have such other powers as the charter prescribes, and the body having the lesser number of members shall have the power to adopt, amend and repeal ordinances, subject to any limitations imposed by the general statutes or by the charter. The number of members in any elective legislative body, the terms of office of such members and the method by which they are elected shall be prescribed by the charter.

(2) The municipality shall have a chief executive officer, who may be one of the following: (A) The first selectman; (B) a chief administrative officer appointed by the board of selectmen; (C) a mayor elected by the electors of the municipality; (D) a warden elected by the electors of the borough; (E) a town, city or borough manager appointed by the board of selectmen, the council, the board of directors, the board of aldermen or the board of burgesses; (F) a chief administrative officer appointed by the mayor. Any municipality having a manager as its chief executive officer may also have a mayor who shall be the presiding officer of its legislative body, shall be the ceremonial head of such municipality and shall have such other powers and duties as the charter prescribes. The powers, duties and term of office of the chief executive officer shall be those prescribed by the general statutes and he shall have such other powers and duties as the charter prescribes.

(b) Every municipality shall have all municipal officers, departments, boards, commissions and agencies which are required by the general statutes or by the charter. Each municipality may have any municipal officers, departments, boards, commissions and agencies which are specifically allowed by the general statutes or which are necessary to carry out any municipal powers, duties or responsibilities under the general statutes. All such officers, departments, boards, commissions and agencies shall be elected, appointed and organized in the manner provided by the general statutes, except as otherwise provided by the charter or by ordinances or resolutions adopted pursuant to such charter. Any municipality may, by charter or by ordinances or resolutions adopted pursuant to such charter, alter the method of election, appointment or organization of any or all of such officers, departments, boards, commissions or agencies, including combining or separating the duties of each, unless specifically prohibited from making such alteration by the Constitution or the general statutes.

(1957, P.A. 465, S. 7; P.A. 76-296, S. 1; P.A. 81-451, S. 9, 10; P.A. 85-253, S. 8, 10; P.A. 86-230.)

History: P.A. 76-296 included among those things prescribed by statute, the term of office of municipality's chief executive officer; P.A. 81-451 substituted "municipality" for "town, city,

CHAPTER VII. Town Meeting

§ 7-1. Annual and Special Meetings.

[Amended 11-7-2006, effective 12-7-2006]

(a)

The Annual Town Meeting, which shall also be the annual budget meeting, shall be held within 15 days of the first Monday of May each year, unless changed by a vote of a Town Meeting or by referendum, to consider all items on the call, ~~except these items relating to the Annual Budget. All items on the call relating to the Annual Budget as endorsed at the Town Meeting in accordance with § 7-1(b) below~~ shall be voted on at referendum not less than seven or more than fourteen days after said Annual Town Meeting on a date set by said meeting; or if said meeting does not set a date, by the Town Selectmen. Special Meetings shall be called by the Board of Selectmen in the manner provided by the General Statutes whenever they deem it necessary, or on application by fifty persons qualified to vote in Town Meeting.

(b)

Prior to
Adoption ~~Endorsement~~ of the ~~a~~Annual ~~b~~Budget ~~to send to referendum~~ shall be by vote of the Annual Town Meeting, ~~if endorsing the Annual Budget.~~ ~~(The meeting shall have the power to decrease any appropriation or item in an appropriation, but it may not increase any appropriation or item in an appropriation, or make any appropriation for a purpose not recommended by the Board of Finance.~~

[Added 11-6-2013, effective 11-6-2013]

(c)

If the Annual Budget is not approved by vote at first referendum, The Board of Selectmen shall schedule subsequent referendum at fourteen-day intervals.

(d)

The matters which the applicants for a Special Town Meeting desire to be acted upon shall, if proper subjects for Town Meeting action, be put in proper form for the call of a meeting and for a Town Meeting resolution with the assistance of Town Counsel, and those matters shall come first in the call of the meeting. The Board of Selectmen in their discretion may add other matters to the call of the meeting.

(e)

All Town Meetings shall be advertised in a newspaper having circulation in Somers at least five days prior to date of meeting. Warnings for Town Meetings may be typewritten or printed and a copy shall be filed with the Town Clerk consistent with statutory requirements.

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