

TOWN OF SOMERS
Charter Revision Commission

Special Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2018
7:00 p.m.

Town Hall Lower Level Conference Room

Ann Logan, Town Clerk; Commission Members Andy Rockett, Terri Henderson, Ralph Williams, Bob Chester, Teresa Schmidt

Also, in attendance: Bud Knorr, Michael Parker, Journal Inquirer reporter Jackie Nappo, Susan Peck

1. Call to Order
 - a. 6:03p.m. Meeting called to order by Chairman Andy Rockett
2. Discussion Special Meeting Recommendations – Selectmen August 2, 2018
Andy Rockett reviewed the unanimous vote on the following motion from the Selectmen:
 1. The Board of Selectmen fully support the recommendation relative to the Town Clerk.
 2. The Board of Selectmen recommends that the Charter Revision Commission revisit a recommendation that the town move to a Full-Time Chief Administrator as Chief Executive reporting to a 3-member elected Board of Selectmen primarily responsible for Policy, Hiring and Firing, Financial Oversight.
 3. The Board of Selectmen fully support the recommendations relative to the combination of the Planning and Zoning Commissions.
 4. The Board of Selectmen fully support the recommendations relative to the number of members on the Planning and Zoning Commissions.

The Charter Commission members discussed at length the recommendations and asked First Selectman Bud Knorr to elaborate on some of the recommendations. Each commission member shared their thoughts and concerns. After discussion, Ralph Williams made a motion that "Pursuant to the Board of Selectmen recommendations, the Charter Commission recommends a Chief Administrative Officer be hired by a 5- member Board of Selectmen and the Chief Administrative Officer can only be discharged by the affirmative vote of 4 members of the Board of Selectmen." Teresa Schmidt seconded. After discussion a vote was called. The motion FAILED (2-3-0) Andy Rockett, Terri Henderson, Teresa Schmidt opposed.

Andy Rockett asked Ralph Williams if he wanted to reconsider the original motion. Ralph Williams made a motion "Pursuant to the Board of Selectmen recommendations, the Charter Commission recommends a Chief Administrative Officer be hired for day-to-day operations to serve under a 3-member Board of Selectmen who will choose their officers, eliminating the First Selectman position." Terri Henderson seconded. PASSED (4-1-0) Bob Chester opposed.

The Commission will respond in writing to the Selectmen recommendations and restate points not addressed in the August 2, 2018 letter which includes a) gender neutral language b) include registrar of voter in charter with increase of term to 4 years due to knowledge base needed c) Clarify town meeting language regarding what needs to be sent to referendum, retaining the ability to reduce the budget at the Town Meeting d) Consistency of titles throughout Charter .

3. Adjournment
Bob Chester made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 pm Ralph Williams seconded. All in favor (5-0)