

Fahey & Landolina, Attorneys LLC

A Connecticut Limited Liability Company

Thomas W. Fahey, Jr.
Carl T. Landolina

487 Spring Street
Windsor Locks, Connecticut 06096
Telephone: (860) 627-8300
Facsimile: (860) 627-6817
Email: tom@faheyland.com
carl@faheyland.com

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Honorable C. Bud Knorr
Office of the First Selectman
600 Main Street
Somers, CT 06071

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Re: Charter Vote November, 2018

Dear Bud:

In reviewing the process whereby the Somers Charter was proposed to be amended in November, 2018, I have discovered a problem. The process of adopting or amending a charter is specifically set forth in C.G.S. § 1-187 et seq. These statutory sections enable local municipalities to enact and revise charters and provide the sole mechanism for doing so. Accordingly, in my view, the statutes must be followed exactly for any charter or charter revision to be valid.

One of the steps required by the statute is that the proposed charter changes must be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality within thirty days of being approved by the Board of Selectmen. In my recent review of the process, I have discovered that this step did not take place. Since, in my view, the requirements of C.G.S. § 1-191 are mandatory, any failure to follow the mandates invalidates any subsequent action. Accordingly, the action on Question 6 is, in my opinion, a nullity.

I am available to discuss this matter in greater detail with the Board at your convenience.

Very truly yours,



Carl T. Landolina

CTL/sw