

Charter Review Commission:

Present: Patricia Adams, Anthony Arico, Jeffrey Brenner, John Cregan, Joel Hellmann, James Jackson, Allan Klepper, Timothy Sweetser, Joan Warren and Town Clerk Meredith DeSisto

Absent: Paul Dulchinos and Mary Alyce Gasbarro

Town Council:

Present: June Sager Speakman, Kate Weymouth, Cindy Armour Coyne and Ann Strong

Absent: William DeWitt

Also Present: Finance Director Dean Huff

Chair Brenner called the Charter Review Commission meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Vice President Kate Weymouth called the Town Council meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

Motion by Mr. Cregan and seconded by Mr. Sweetser to accept the minutes of the meeting on September 30, 2013. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION WITH TOWN COUNCIL, TOWN MANAGER, AND TOWN FINANCE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE REGARDING THE EXISTING TOWN CHARTER AND PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TOWN CHARTER

Town Manager Peter DeAngelis was unable to attend. However, in advance of the meeting, the Town Manager communicated his recommendation that that the Commission consider clarifying Title 16 – Miscellaneous Provisions Chapter 1: CEMETERIES AND PUBLIC LIBRARY: 16-1-2 BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY. Chair Brenner will work with the Town Manager to prepare proposed language concerning this recommendation. The Library Board will be notified in advance of the Charter Review Commission's meeting in which proposed language will be discussed so that they may attend and participate in the discussion.

Finance Director Dean Huff recommended that the Charter Review Commission review the following sections of the 2004 Town Charter:

Title 16 – Miscellaneous Provisions

Chapter 1: CEMETERIES AND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mr. Huff recommended that the Cemetery Commission follow the same rules and procedures as other departments within the Town pertaining to purchasing so that the process begins with direction from the Finance Director. Chair Brenner will work with the Town Manager to prepare proposed language concerning this recommendation. The Cemetery Commission will be notified in advance of the Charter Review Commission's meeting in which proposed language will be discussed so that they may

attend and participate in the discussion. Town Councilor Weymouth noted that the Cemetery Commission is a board made up of three members but would like the Town to consider additional members.

Mr. Huff recommended that the Commission consider revising the following sections of the Town Charter:

Title 1 - Basic Provisions

Chapter 3: POWERS OF TOWN: 1-3-1 POWERS GRANTED TOWN

Title 2 – Town Council

Chapter 1: COUNCIL: 2-1-6 POWERS (b) and (l)

Mr. Huff stated this section falls within the salary ordinance of the Town and recommended that it be removed from the town ordinance.

Title 3 – Town Manager

Chapter 1: MANAGER: 3-1-1 QUALIFICATIONS

Mr. Huff recommended to consult State of Rhode Island 2006-H6711, 45-2-15.1 (residency). 3-1-5 FINANCIAL REPORT

Title 6 - Finance Department

Chapter 2: ACCOUNTING CONTROLS: 6-2-2 DEPARTMENT BUDGET. Mr.

Huff recommended having the approval of the Town Council and the Committee on Appropriations with budget adjustments and to have more flexibility within departmental balancing; 6-2-3 BUDGET CONTROL, 6-2-5 CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNTS, 6-4-2 PROPOSED BUDGET, and 6-4-4 SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUDGET

Title 7 - Financial Town Meeting

Chapter 1: FINANCIAL TOWN MEETING: 7-1-1 TOWN MEETING TIME AND PURPOSE AND 7-1-6 QUORUM

Title 9 – Schools

Chapter 2: POWERS AND DUTIES: 9-2-10 SCHOOL PURCHASING, FINANCIAL RECORDS AND VOUCHERS

The Charter Review Commission thanked Finance Director Dean Huff for his many years of notable service as Barrington Finance Director. Mr. Huff is resigning effective October 23, 2013.

DISCUSS AND ACT ON AGENDA TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Discussion concerning whether the Town needs a centralized IT director and department. When the Commission invites members of the School Department to meet at a future meeting, the School Technology Director will also be invited specifically.

Town Councilor Speakman suggested having a consultant attend a session to address future IT needs.

School Committee Member Scott Fuller informed Chair Brenner before the meeting that he recommended that a provision be added in the Town Charter mandating joint meetings between the Town Council, School Committee, and Appropriations Committee at least twice a year. Mr. Sweetser, who is also a member of the Appropriations Committee, stated that the Appropriations Committee already has joint meetings with the Town Council and School Committee during the budget process.

Discussion ensued concerning the Financial Town Meeting. The Charter Review Commission will schedule a meeting entirely on this subject in the future.

Town Councilor Speakman recommended that the Town Council terms be 2 years instead of 4 years. Town Councilors Weymouth, Coyne, and Strong disagreed with this recommendation.

Town Councilors Speakman and Coyne recommended considering the creation of an Assistant Town Manager position.

Town Councilor Coyne commented that reviewing the Town Charter every ten years is a meaningful exercise so that the Town years to see where it has been and where it is going in the future.

The next meeting will be either November 18 or 20, 2013, depending on scheduling issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

School Committee Member Kate Brody stated she will discuss the subject of IT with other members of the school committee.

ADJOURN

Motion by Mrs. Coyne and seconded by Mrs. Speakman to adjourn the Town Council meeting at 9:00 P.M. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Hellmann and seconded by Mr. Cregan to adjourn the Charter Review Commission meeting at 9:00 P.M. The motion passed unanimously.

Meredith J. DeSisto, Town Clerk