

Charter Review Commission:

Present: Patricia Adams, Anthony Arico, Jeffrey Brenner, Paul Dulchinos, Mary Alyce Gasbarro, Joel Hellmann, James Jackson, Allan Klepper and Town Clerk Meredith DeSisto

Absent: John Cregan, Timothy Sweetser and Joan Warren

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 12, 2014

Motion by Mr. Arico and seconded by Mr. Jackson to accept the minutes of the meeting on February 12, 2014. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF CORRESPONDENCE FROM PAUL DULCHINOS AND PATRICK GUIDA

Correspondence from Patrick Guida: Mr. Guida stated within his letter, "he would like to formally request that the Town Charter be revised to specifically allow for the School Committee and the Town Council, in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, to submit, present and read at the FTM a statement concerning the financial and fiscal matters for which each such body is responsible." Discussion ensued.

Mr. Hellmann agrees with the comments, but he does not believe that this should be mandated and codified within the Town Charter.

Mr. Klepper observed that the budgets of the School Administration and Town are their reports. He suggested that the Town should mail copies of the proposed budget to all households in advance of the Financial Town Meeting (FTM) as well as post the proposed budget on the Town's website.

Ms. Adams is not in favor of the School and Town being mandated by the Charter to present reports at the FTM.

Mr. Jackson believes that the School and Town could report at the FTM, but he is not in favor of mandating this procedure.

Chair Brenner stated it would be expensive to mail the document to each household.

Mr. Klepper stated there may be bulk government rates to mail the document. He would like to see the document changed from being printed on legal size paper to letter size paper.

Chair Brenner commented that mailing the budget to every household does not necessarily mean that more people will attend the FTM.

Mr. Klepper commented that the Committee on Appropriations (COA) set up has served the Town well and modifications to the budget have been minuscule.

Mr. Hellmann is not in favor of mailing the budget to every household due to the expense.

Mr. Dulchinos suggested sending a postcard notifying residents of a specific internet link, to view the budget, to all the households in the Town.

Ms. Adams is not in favor of mailing the budget to households because the budget from the School Department cannot have line item changes as it is taken as a whole.

Mr. Klepper stated he will research the cost of mailing the budget to every household.

Mr. Jackson is not in favor of mailing the budget because there is sufficient notification to voters before the FTM which complies with Rhode Island law.

Mr. Dulchinos stated there should be a central emailing list of households.

Ms. Adams concurs with Mr. Dulchinos that the School Department has a central email list for all parents.

Mr. Hellman agrees that the School Department has such a list.

Correspondence from Paul Dulchinos: Mr. Dulchinos stated within his email that he suggests a representative system of voters for the FTM and distributed language from the Town of Chelmsford, Massachusetts, as an example of such a system. Discussion ensued regarding the concept and how the election process would be implemented.

After hearing the comments of the members, Chair Brenner observed that although the members do not seem to support this concept, it is a meritorious idea and he will list it in his final report to the Town Council.

DISCUSSION OF WORDING OF EXISTING TOWN CHARTER

Mr. Klepper stated he would like to have periodic reviews of compensation of Town Council and School Committee members.

Chair Brenner stated this was discussed at an earlier meeting and will be voted on at a future meeting.

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE DAY/DATE/TIME OF MEETINGS

The following dates have been tentatively scheduled: Monday, April 28, 2014, Monday, May 12, 2014 and Monday, May 19, 2014.

DISCUSS AND ACT ON AGENDA TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Town Manager Peter DeAngelis and Fire Chief Gerald Bessette will attend the meeting on Monday, March 31, 2014. A meeting will be scheduled with Town Solicitor Michael Ursillo. Chair Brenner distributed a Word document containing the Charter and requested that each member return proposed revision to the Charter to him and/or the Clerk no later than March 31, 2014, so that he can assemble the comments and thereafter circulate a master document containing proposed revisions for discussion at a future meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURN

Motion by Mr. Hellmann and seconded by Mr. Klepper to adjourn the Charter Review Commission meeting at 8:35 P.M. The motion passed unanimously.

Meredith J. DeSisto, Town Clerk