

## **Warren Charter Review Commission**

**Minutes for Monday, February 1, 2016**

**The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.**

**Commissioners in attendance: Andre Asselin, Julie Blount, Judy Fardig and Tara Thibaudeau.**

**The Charter Commission interviewed Town Councilman #2 regarding revisions to the Town Charter.**

### **Recommendations:**

#### **1. Town Manager:**

- 1. Model for appointing Town Manager works best, versus being elected.**
- 2. Town department heads should have input in selecting new staff with certain skill sets, but Town Manager who is hired as executive should have final say.**

#### **2. Elections:**

- 1. Elections should be run at large with no party affiliation. Should be judging candidate, not voting along party lines.**
- 2. In favor of 4 year, staggered terms. Two-year term is frustrating. Takes one budget/school cycle to get up to speed with how town operates. 4-year term would yield better results. Staggered allows**

**there to be experienced people on council and continuity of issues being carried forward.**

**3. Suggest using Bristol's December model, which limits chance of lame duck session. Reschedule to allow 1-2 week buffer to be briefed. Also for 1st meeting, Bristol hosts a community event (community pride component) when sworn in.**

**3. Budget:**

**1. Increasing competitive bid to \$10,000 would be an improvement.**

**2. In favor of Bristol/Warren school alignment. Current system makes budget discussion awkward, especially for finalizing budget.**

**3. Departments should be working with more responsible budgets and only request additional funds from General Fund if budget depleted.**

**4. Fire Department:**

**Supports adding a Rescue representative on Board of Engineers.**

**5. Third Party Billing:**

**Makes sense for departments that generate revenue to get portion back to help fund equipment/supplies, but not committed to making a change. Encourages being responsible if managing department well and generating revenue.**

**6. Building and Zoning Enforcement:**

**Yes, Police Department should enforce town code and work with Building Official.**

**7. Harbor Commission:**

**Harbor Master, who report to Town Manager should be hired by Town Manager to be consistent with other departments.**

**8. Recreation Director:**

**Director should be listed in Departments, not Boards.**

**9. Juvenile Hearing Board:**

**Needs clarification. Correction should be made to be consistent with other charter boards.**