

April 12, 2010

Chair Arthur Russo called a meeting of the Charter Review Advisory Commission to order at 6:43 p.m. Members present were Vice Chair Ken Booth, Linda Butera-Noble, Stanley Wynne, Paul St. Germain, Fausto Anguilla and Maureen F. Smith. Commission member Ronald Stewart was absent.

Minutes of the March 27, 2010 meeting passed unanimously. (LN-PSG)

Minutes of the March 29, 2010 meeting passed unanimously with Paul St. Germain abstaining. (LN-SW)

Chairman Russo read a correspondence he had received from former Town Administrator Sue P. Sheppard in regards to addressing the areas of the Charter that caused the loss of lawsuits in regards to the positions of the police chief and the finance director.

Discussion centered on trust and loyalty issues, keeping the politics out of the mix, the turnover rate and the closeness of the relationship between the administrator and these positions. Fausto will look at the two cases and the commission will review again when the results of the case are clarified to them.

The commission discussed Article XX – Suspension; Discharge:

Reinstatement

§ C20-1. Suspension upon referral of charges against officers for criminal act.

Motion to eliminate “if secretly indicted by a grand jury” and add the words “charged with” to the first sentence of this section and to add the language “Said official or employee shall have the right to appeal pursuant to § C5-8 (9)” and to eliminate the word “pay” and replace with the words “compensation due and accrued” to the third sentence of the section passed unanimously. (PSG-SW)

The commission discussed Article XXI – Impeachment

There were no recommendations for change in Article XXI.

The commission discussed Article XIV – Personnel

The following recommendations for change to sections in this article passed unanimously in one motion. (PSG-LN)

§ C14-1. Organization of Personnel Board.

The commission recommends changing this sections title to “Organization Police and Public Safety Board”

The commission recommends eliminating the words “who is known to be in sympathy with the merit principle as applied to public employment” and the words “and shall not be or have been for at least two years prior to his appointment, a member of any national, state or local committee of a political club or organization.” from the second paragraph of this section.

§ C14-2. Compensation. There were no recommendations for this section.

§ C14-3. Powers and Duties.

The commission recommends deleting, in its entirety, sub-sections (1), (2) and (5).

The commission recommends adopting the Town Administrators’ submitted language which deletes the words “Formulate, administer and such” and adds the words “police and fire- medic” between the words classified and service in sub-section (3).

The commission recommends deleting the words “in the classified service” and “the classification plan” from the first sentence of sub-section (4).

§ C14-4. Position excepted from classified service.

The commission recommends that the word “Board” be replaced with the word “Director” in sub-sections (4) and (5).

The commission recommends deleting in it’s entirety sub-section (6).

§ C14-5. Position excepted from classified service. There were no recommendations for this section.

§ C14-6. Temporary appointment when no list is available.

The commission recommends that the word “Board” be replaced with the word “Director”.

§ C14-7. Probationary period.

The commission recommends deleting the words “during which time the appointing authority shall report to the Personnel Board every 60 days concerning the work of the employee” and “with the Personnel Board” from this section.

§ C14-8. Emergency appointment.

The commission recommends deleting the words “Emergency appointments shall be reported immediately to the Personnel Board”.

§ C14-9. Services of other agencies.

The commission recommends deleting the section in its entirety.

§ C14-10. Removal of officers on indefinite tenure. There were no recommendations for this section.

§ C14-11. Personnel review. There were no recommendations for this section.

**Motion to leave the Water Commission as a stand-alone entity and not be put under a Public Works umbrella passed unanimously.
(PSG-KB)**

The commission will review the recommendations for change submitted by the Water Commission after the public hearing on April 27, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Maureen F. Smith