

Technical Corrections 2015 Charter Revision Commission

1. There is a contradiction in **Charter Section 204 Vacancies in Elective Offices** wherein in the first paragraph the Board of Selectmen, by not being included in the exception are included in those boards where vacancies can be appointed by the Board of Selectmen, therefore the mention of the Board of Selectmen in the third paragraph is a contradiction and it is recommended that the mention of “or office of the Selectmen “in the 3rd paragraph be deleted.

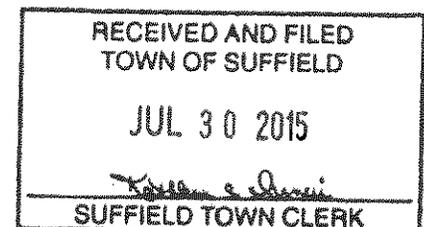
Text of Charter section is as follows: “Any vacancy, from whatever cause arising in of Selectmen, any elective town office, **excluding the Board of Education and the Board of Finance and the office of the First Selectman**, shall be filled within thirty days of such vacancy by appointment of the Board of Selectmen, for the unexpired portion of the term. Any such vacancy shall be filled by the appointment of a member of the same political party as the person vacating the office in the event said person was affiliated with a political party.

(Approved 11-3-87, sec. 2)

Vacancies on the Board of Education and on the Board of Finance shall be filled by the remaining members of such Board, and shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired term or until the next regular town election, whichever event shall first occur. Any such vacancy shall be filled by the appointment of a member of the same political party as the person vacating the office in the event said person was affiliated with a political party. If there is a regular town election before the expiration of the term of office of any person appointed to an elective office under the provisions of this section, such office shall be filled by the election of a person to fill that office for the unexpired portion of the term such person to take office immediately upon election.

If a vacancy shall occur in the office of First Selectman **or office of the Selectmen**, the successor shall be chosen in accordance with the provisions of the General Statutes.”

2. Section **302 Elected Town Officers, Boards and Commissions**, subsection **L** of the Charter is recommended for amendment solely for the purpose of changing the name of the Zoning and Planning commission to Planning and Zoning to comport with the manner in which such commissions are referred to in CT state statute. This was done with the consent of the board chairman.
3. Section **303 Elected State Officers**, subsection **B** of the Charter is recommended for deletion since the reference to the election for the Probate court is unusual in that no other elections which impact Towns other than Suffield are mentioned in the Charter and this seemed unnecessary.
4. It was pointed out by a CRC member that the clause ‘ no less than two members of the Board’ in charter section **406 Emergency Ordinances** should be changed to ‘no less than three members of the Board’ to be a majority since the Board of Selectmen now has 5 members. This was an oversight from the 2001/2002 CRC effort.



5. It was noted by a CRC member and recommended that these four Charter sections should be deleted since these positions are hired Town employees and not appointments.
Section 605 Superintendent of Public Works.
Section 606 Tree Warden .
Section 607 Dog Warden
Section 610 Building Inspector.
6. Since the Board of Selectmen doesn't reappoint the Assessor for four year terms as it is viewed as a hired position, the first sentence in **Section 609 Assessor;**" The Assessor shall serve a term of four years, the first term of which shall have commenced on February 1, 1983." is recommended to be deleted.
7. To comport with the manner in which the state now refers to their emergency preparedness function, we recommend the amendment of section **706 Appointed Boards and Commissions**, subsection **F** of the Charter to change the title of the Office of Civil Preparedness to Emergency Management Office.
8. At the request of the Historic District Commission, section **706 Appointed Boards and Commissions**, subsection **H** of the Charter is recommended to be amended to increase the alternates from 2 to 3 to comport with state law (7-147c,(d).
9. A prior Charter review commission had deleted the reference to the Redevelopment agency but it remained in the Charter so we (again) recommend the deletion of Charter **section 706 Appointed Boards and Commissions**, subsection **M** to delete reference to the now defunct Redevelopment Agency.
10. One seeming typo in Charter section **804 Other Financial Matters**, subsection **D** dealing with the Town's ability to declare a public emergency is recommended to be fixed in that it previously read:"...threatening the lives, health **and** property of citizens..."was corrected to:"... threatening the lives, health **or** property of citizens.

Additional Technical corrections approved from the 2008/9 CRC.

1. In Charter section **201, General**, within Elections Chapter II, line 5 the reference to a "meeting of the electors" should be changed to reference a "biennial town election" to distinguish it from a Town Meeting.
2. In Charter section **203 Minority Representation** add "except for the Board of Selectmen as provided in Section 401 of this Charter."

3. In Charter section **302 Elected Town Officers Boards and Commissions**, subsection **G** change “Board of Tax Review” to “Board of Assessment Appeals.”
4. In Charter section **401 Composition** (Board of Selectmen) line 2, change the word “whom” to “the Board of Selectmen” to avoid confusion.
5. In Charter section **804, Other Financial Matters**, subsection **D**, as well as other sections of the Charter add the word “annual” to town budget to read “Annual Town Budget.”
6. In Charter Section **807 Expenditures and Accounting**, subsection **E**, third paragraph, last 2 lines, the language is left over from when we had a 3 person Board of Selectmen. Should be changed to read, “, provided that in the absence of or the ability to act of the First Selectman, any two (2) of the remaining ~~four (4)~~ Selectmen ~~of the Board of Selectmen~~ will be signatories of the authorization”?
7. In Charter section **1009 Referendum by Petition**, the section should be retitled “Referendum.”