

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
August 27, 2015**

Present: Bob Brooks, Jeff Kew, Brian Fitzgerald, Bob Parks, Bobbie Kling and Brian Dudack. **Absent:** Charles Watras. Chairman Brooks called the meeting to order at 7: 04 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from July 16, 2015 Regular Meeting

Mr. Parks made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 16, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Charter Revision Commission (CRC) as presented. Ms. Kling seconded the motion.

Vote 6-0 in favor.

Public Comment: Mr. Parks reported that he received a call from Ann Borg (1310 Mountain Road) stating she was opposed to the changes the Board of Selectmen (BoS) recommended regarding section 611. Mr. Brooks also noted that CRC member Charlie Watras was opposed to these changes too.

Discussion and possible vote on Board of Selectmen comments to create a Final report

Chairman Brooks looked for input regarding the BoS request to reconsider the number of signatures required to petition for a non-budget referendum. Ms. Kling said she was satisfied with the original CRC recommendation of 7% with 21 days to collect signatures. Mr. Kew said he is in favor of a lower percentage and doesn't believe that it will increase the number of referendums. Chairman Brooks noted that the current 7% equates to a number between 550 and 600.

Mr. Kew made a motion to change the number of signatures needed for a non-budget referendum percentage from 7% to a flat 500 votes. Mr. Parks seconded the motion. Mr. Fitzgerald noted that all other petition requirements are stated in percentages. The motion failed with a vote 1-5. Mr. Kew voted in favor.

Mr. Kew made a motion to change the number of signatures needed for a non-budget referendum from 7% to 6%. Mr. Parks seconded the motion. Ms. Kling said the group had worked hard to get consensus at 7% and she supported that figure. Mr. Kew noted that Charlie Watras would have liked to see a lower percentage too. The remaining members preferred using a percentage that would fluctuate depending on the number of registered voters. The motion passed 5-1 with Ms. Kling voting against.

A discussion took place on the request to reconsider the language in section 611 regarding the Director of Finance. The BoS were in favor of deleting sections 611A and 611C so the Director of Finance position would be like other Directors. Ms. Kling said this was discussed at length and the CRC decided to take no action. Mr. Kew said that he felt that stakeholders were consulted and they didn't support a change. Mr. Kew made a motion to take no action on the recommendation to remove 611A and 611C. Ms.

Kling seconded the motion. Mr. Parks said that the Director of Finance has a fiduciary responsibility to the Town through the Board of Finance and had an issue with removing that responsibility. First Selectman McAnaney noted that it is almost impossible to get a majority vote from two boards for removal of the occupant of the position. Chairman Brooks called the vote and the motion passed 6-0 to make no changes.

The final item for reconsideration was language in 1009A. The proposed language was:

The Board of Selectmen may present any issue to the Town for vote by referendum provided, that those issues set forth in Charter Sections 1006A through 1006I, inclusive, must first be submitted to and decided by a town meeting before the Selectmen may call a referendum on such issue or issues. **Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1007 of this charter the Board of Selectmen may present any issue to the Town at an adjourned Town Meeting for vote by referendum. (An adjourned Town Meeting is a Town Meeting where there will be a referendum on the question(s) considered at the Town Meeting no matter what, if any, action is taken on the matter at the Town Meeting)**

The Board of Selectmen suggested the following change:

The Board of Selectmen may present any issue to the Town for vote by referendum provided, that those issues set forth in Charter Sections 1006A through 1006I, inclusive, must first be submitted to and decided by a town meeting before the Selectmen may call a referendum on such issue or issues. **Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1007 of this charter the Board of Selectmen may present any issue to the Town at an adjourned Town Meeting for vote by referendum. (An adjourned Town Meeting is a Town Meeting where there will be a referendum on the question(s) considered at the Town Meeting ~~no matter what,~~ regardless of the action, if any, ~~action is~~ taken on the matter at the Town Meeting)**

The intent was to allow the BoS to call a Town Meeting where the populous knows in advance that no vote will be taken. Mr. Fitzgerald said this is an effort to strengthen the Town Meeting. He also noted that this was removed in the 2001 CRC effort. The Town Meeting effectively becomes a Public Hearing. Mr. Fitzgerald said that the Town shouldn't have to be called out twice to vote on a matter. After discussion it was agreed that the vote after an adjourned Town Meeting was not a referendum so it should not be contained in the referendum section.

Mr. Brooks made the motion to remove the previously added language and modify it as follows and to establish it into a new section 1010 :

1010 Adjourned Town Meeting

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1007 and 1009A of this charter the Board of Selectmen may present any issue to the Town at an adjourned Town Meeting as defined by Connecticut General Statute for a vote by ballot.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald. Vote 5-1 in favor with Ms. Kling voting against the motion.

Ms. Kling made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Mr. Parks. Vote 6-0 in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Trase
Recording Secretary