

WINDHAM CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

WINDHAM TOWN HALL
Bellingham Auditorium
979 Main Street, Willimantic, CT
THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2014 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted by Janet Laukaitis, Clerk of the Charter Revision Commission

Attendees: Members: Dennis O'Brien, Doug Lary, Jan-Maya Schold, Victor Rayhall, Chuck Pennewill, Priscilla Root, and Pamela Shorey. Other attendees: Richard Bloomer and MaryLou DeVivo.

1. Call to order: Chairman O'Brien called the meeting to order at 7:30.
2. Citizens and Delegations: None
3. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Minutes for April 24, 2014:
4. Chairman's Report: Chairman O'Brien reviewed future meeting dates of this commission:
 - May 8, 2014 at the Town Hall Council Meeting Room
 - May 15, 2014 possible meeting date
 - May 22, 2014 Public Hearing at the High School Media Center
 - May 29, 2014 Vote on final draft; send to Town CouncilProposed draft must be ready by 5/8/14 meeting or, the May 15, 2014 proposed meeting on Third Thursday will be necessary.
5. Commissioner Discussion and possible action related to Draft Charter prepared by Commission Chairman, beginning with a quick review of Chapters I to VII-2, then going forward from Chapter VII-2, hopefully to the end (Chapter XIII).

Page 2, Paragraph 3: Commissioners discussed the annual budget referendum voting rights of property owners who are not U.S. citizens. It was moved by Commissioner Schold to retain the paragraph as written without extending rights to non-citizens. Motion carried with Commissioner Lary and Chairman O'Brien in the minority.

[At this point, the commission moved to a different location, the town employee lunch room, for better lighting.]

Page 4, Section III-2. – Voting Districts Commissioners agreed that electors must vote in the Voting District in which they reside. No voter may vote more than once in any election or annual budget referendum. No entity voting via a person who is representing it should have more than a single vote.

Page 4, Section III-3. – Minority party representation. Commissioner Lary distributed copies of General Statutes Section 9-167a, Section 9-204, Section 9-204a, and Section 9-204b. He described the different sections and commissioners discussed them. Moved by Commissioner Lary and Seconded by Commissioner Schold to include General Statute 9-204b regarding election of the board of education in this section. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Page 7, Section IV-5. – Compensation It was agreed to change the word "salaries" to "compensation" in the last sentence in this section.

Page 8, Section V-2 – Mayor: It was agreed to change the word “set” (the agenda for Council meetings) to the word “prepare”, in the second sentence. Commissioners Schold and Lary proposed that a change be made to allow council members a chance to add to the agenda. Chairman O’Brien will adjust the wording of this section accordingly.

Page 8 (cont. to page 9), V-3 – General powers and duties of the town council: After discussion, the commissioners agreed to ask Chairman O’Brien to amend this section to include minority party representation on the proposed Nominating Committee.

Page 9, V-4 – Procedures: It was agreed to remove the words “or abstains” from the fourth sentence of this section.

Page 12, Va-3 – Duties of the Town Manager: The Town Manager’s position and duties were discussed. It was agreed that the Town Manager should be responsible to the Town Council.

Page 13, Va-3 (g): It was agreed to amend this sentence to something like the following: “Prepare and submit to the Council and the Board of Finance, an annual budget.”

Page 14, VI-1 – Board of Finance: It was agreed to remove the second sentence.

Page 14, VI-2 – General Powers.: It was agreed to change the last sentence of this section to read, “The Board of Finance shall have no power and authority with regard to any Taxing District.”

Page 15, Chapter VII – APPOINTIVE OFFICERS: It was agreed to remove VII-8 – Planning Commission, from this table of contents.

Page 16, VII-2 – Town Attorney: It was agreed to change the word “Mayor” to “Town Manager” in both the second and third paragraphs.

Page 17, VII-9 – Ethics commission: It was agreed to change the beginning of the second to read “at least a majority...”

Page 18, VII-10 – Other Appointive Boards: Commissioner Pennewill raised questions about including the “(3) Police and Fire Pension Commission” as a town agency when it only is involved with Williamantic police and fire. There was discussion about what to do about the Willimantic Switchboard Fire Chiefs Association regarding the list of appointive authorities, agencies, commissions and boards.

Page 18 VII-11 – Eligibility: There was discussion and it was agreed that regional services should have fair and proportional representation. There was talk about what to do in this regard about the “Willimantic Switchboard Fire Chiefs Association”.

6. Citizens and Delegations 3 minutes, related to Charter, Commissioners may ask questions or seek clarification): Dick Bloomer complimented the commissioners on their hard work.
- 7.
8. Adjournment: Moved by Chuck Pennewill to adjourn, seconded by Doug Lary, to adjourn the meeting at 9:20. Motion Carried.

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 5/9/2014
AT 12:00 PM
ATTEST Patricia P. Spruance TOWN CLERK