

WINDHAM CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

WINDHAM HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2013 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by Jessica Niles clerk of Charter Revision Commission

Attendees: Erika Haynes, Priscilla Root, Doug Lary, Jan-Maya Schold, Dennis O'Brien (7:24pm) and guest speaker Attorney Rich Cody

1. Call to order- Erika Haynes called the meeting to order at 7:05pm
2. Citizens and Delegations (3 minutes, related to Charter, Commissioners may ask questions or seek clarification): Dr. Bloomer- he is concerned about the police department. He investigated several towns that use state police including Mansfield, Tolland, Stafford etc., based on call numbers (crime rate) and cost the Town of Windham could be savings of approx. 5 million. Dr. Bloomer requested that the commission do not do anything to prevent the town council to further explore the issue of policing.
3. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Minutes for September 26, 2013- Jan-Maya Schold made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Priscilla Root- Discussion took place regarding section 1-1 and the \$1000. It was also noted to take out Dr. Bloomers public comment due to no one remembering what was said. Motion passed (unanimous)
4. Commissioner discussion and possible action related to: Board of finance, single finance department, and other finance related issues. Guests Town Attorney Rich Cody and will join the discussion at the table:

The Town Council has 15 months to put the charter out there; they can recommend issues to the Charter Commission but the Commission does not have to act on those issues. Jan-Maya Schold asked if there is a method the Town Council could use to dissolve the Board of Finance without changing the text- the answer was no. Doug Lary questioned if a certain date could be set to dissolve the Board of Finance and the response was yes. Jan-Maya Schold stated she sees there being three possible situations: leave it as it, dissolve it in X amount of time or get rid of it now. Priscilla Root stated that there is another Charter Commission in five years and maybe we should let it be for now. Doug Lary mentioned the commission should still look at other changes: terms, number

of members, etc.

Treasurer- the question of who should fill this position and is it needed. Attorney Cody responded that under town Meeting Statues there are set offices that need to be filled and often they are filled by the town clerk. After home rule you can abolish the treasurer but you would need to establish some kind of financial officer. Attorney Cody handed out a handout with information on the Financial Director and possible changes made to the charter. Erika Haynes stated she was concerned with the check and balances, in the structure they are looking at does it meet what is needed to pass an audit? The response was yes. Discussion took place regarding budget making authority.

Attorney Cody will be sending out his housekeeping list from May 6th, his recommendations for land acquisitions and appropriation as well as language for ex-official members and recusals. Discussion took place regarding recusals and the language the commissioners developed to get rid of the chart for majority vote. Attorney Cody responded that there are two ways to get rid of the chart the 1st being % of total number of membership or 2nd just say majority vote. He stated the chart was developed so that you could not have one person approve a large issue.

Discussion took place regarding the Board of Finance and Town Council. It was brought up that in the charter it states the Town Council can work together with Board of Finance, Board of Education if they choose to. Discussion took place regarding making the Board of Finance and Town Council work in concert for three budget cycles then they will merge. Doug Lary suggested the following table to represent a merge of Board of Finance and Town Council.

	TC	BOF
	11	7
2015	9	5
2017	7	5
2019		11
2021		7

5. Commissioner Discussion and possible action related to:

- Elector & Voter- Doug Lary made a motion to move agenda item #5 to a future agenda, seconded by Priscilla Root; motion passed (unanimous)
6. Future Agenda Items – Have Neal Beets and the tax collector attend a meeting
 7. Citizens and Delegations (3 minutes, related to Charter, Commissioners may ask questions or seek clarification)- Doug Lary – He brought up that with reducing the size of the Town Council and Board of Finance it may get harder for district representation. Discussion was held regarding possible solutions to consider in the future.
 8. Adjournment- Jan-Maya Schold made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Doug Lary motion passed. (unanimous)
- Meeting adjourned at 9:12pm