

Minutes of Charter Revision Commission

Windham Town Hall, First Floor Conference Room
Thursday, June 30, 2016 - 7:00 P.M.



Attendees- Harry Carboni, Jeff Smith, Dan Lein, Josh Eves

1. **Call to Order.** Harry Carboni called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. **Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment.**

Laurie Jeffers (Willimantic) – it's no surprise that the town attorneys name is Rich Cody- he made a statement that any changes to the charter could be posted as set changes. She questioned why he hasn't mentioned this in the past? She is concerned with the changeable date- she is ok with moving it back. She stated the commission should send it back to the Town Council and recommend they open a formal 16-month charter revision commission to look at all the issues that were brought up during the public hearing.

Henry Crane (Willimantic)- he likes the charter change with the open ended dates, and likes June 15 to be kept as a solid date. We really need to wait for the legislature to figure out their end of things before deciding on our budget.

James Flores (Willimantic)- Concern with a budget based on need. He does not want to wait for teachers and staff to come back in September in order to vote on budgets. If the budget does not pass, then there needs to be a standard routine.

Bernie D'Auteil (Willimantic)- he would like to see the date of the referendum changed, maybe even change the date of the fiscal year to the end of October- everyone will be back and all figures should be set. He stated there should be a recall capability. He also mentioned that what is going on has been taken seriously.

3. **Discuss and possibly act on proposed changes to the Town Charter. –**

Harry Carboni- the current language does not allow for flexibility but the proposed language does. Jeff Smith and Josh Eves are both happy with the proposed change. Dan Lein stated he does not feel it is broken and would like to submit his own suggestion. Harry Carboni stated we had Gay St. Louis here who stated they would work with and have done in the past anything presented to them but this would give them some flexibility.

Josh Eves made a motion to change the language of the Charter to read as follows : Provided that, THE BOARD OF FINANCE MAY CHANGE THE DATES FOR THE ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING AND VOTER REFERENDUM BASED ON THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S PROGRESS WITH APPROVING THE STATE BUDGET. Motion seconded by Jeff Smith. It will be sent to a public hearing Thursday July 7th at 7pm, then to the Town Council, the commission will meet next week after the Public Hearing. 3 in favor, 1 against (Dan Lein)

Chapter C. Charter

CHAPTER X. Finance and Taxation

§ X-7. Annual budget meeting.

The annual budget meeting of the Town shall be held on the first Tuesday in May for discussion of the budget recommended by the Board of Finance, and shall be adjourned to a referendum vote on the budget recommended by the Board of Finance. The referendum vote shall take place no later than seven (7) days after the first Tuesday in May. Provided that, THE BOARD OF FINANCE MAY CHANGE THE DATES FOR THE ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING AND VOTER REFERENDUM BASED ON THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S PROGRESS WITH APPROVING THE STATE BUDGET. The Board of Finance shall cause notice of the time, date and place of the annual budget meeting, including the recommended budget and other information required by the General Statutes, to be published by the Town Clerk in a newspaper having a substantial circulation in the Town. The notice shall specify the date, times and places of the referendum vote. The notice shall provide that separate votes shall be taken on the portion of the budget for the Board of Education and the portion of the budget for the remaining general government items. The Board of Finance may specify in the notice that separate votes will be held on any individual appropriation or group of appropriations in the general government portion of the budget as determined by the Board of Finance. The annual budget meeting may not change the budget recommended by the Board of Finance. Electors of the Town of Windham and voters entitled to vote in the annual budget referendum of the Town of Windham pursuant to Chapter I-1 of this Charter shall be entitled to discuss the budget at the annual budget meeting and shall be eligible to vote for or against the budget at the budget referendum. Should the annual budget referendum fail to approve the budget, the Board of Finance may revise the proposed budget, and submit the revised budget to a subsequent budget meeting and referendum in accordance with the provisions described in this Section for the annual budget meeting and referendum.

(If the date of the annual budget meeting is a public holiday the meeting shall be held the next day. No referendum on the annual budget nor any subsequent budget shall be held on a public holiday or a Friday, Saturday or Sunday.)

An official copy of the budget as finally adopted shall be filed by the Board of Finance with the Town Clerk within one (1) week following adoption. After adoption of the annual budget the Board of Finance shall fix the tax rate in mills which shall be levied on the taxable property in the Town for the next fiscal year.

If the Town fails to approve an annual budget prior to the beginning of the fiscal year, the Town Council shall have the power to approve necessary expenditures pending the adoption of the annual budget as provided in the General Statutes. If the Town fails to approve an annual budget by June 15, the Town Council shall have the power to levy taxes on the taxable property in the town at a rate in mills which does not exceed the tax rate for the fiscal year just ending.

4. Discuss and set the next meeting date of the Charter Commission, and identify possible issues to discuss, tasks to accomplish, or persons to invite. - Public Hearing—July 7th at 7pm. Revision Commission meeting right after public hearing

5. Citizens and Delegations: Public Comment.

James Flores (Willimantic)- there should be a set standard- if the budget doesn't pass then 30 days later a referendum and if that doesn't pass then 30 days later.... He stated it should be uniform.

Laurie Jeffers (Willimantic)- leave the 2nd Tuesday and then again the next 2nd Tuesday- if after 3 times it fails adopt it at a lesser value.

Henry Crane (Willimantic)- He thanked the Commission for their hard work. He thinks all the changes should be sent over to the next Charter Commissions. There are a lot of questions regarding the High School.

6. Adjournment- Dan Lein made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Josh Eves: motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:19.

Respectfully submitted by Jessica Niles Clerk of the Town of Windham