

**WINDHAM CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
WINDHAM TOWN HALL  
979 Main Street, Willimantic, CT  
THURSDAY, JULY 31, 2014 7:00 PM**

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

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

1. Call to Order of Charter Commission Meeting: Meeting called to order by the Chair at 7:04.
2. Citizens and Delegations (3 minutes, related to Charter, Commissioners may ask questions or seek clarification): Joe Marsalisi appeared before the commission to propose the naming of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Taxing Districts instead of the Willimantic and 1<sup>st</sup> Taxing Districts. Also, Mr. Marsalisi questioned the districts being called Taxing Districts instead of Service Districts. Commissioner Schold and Chairman O'Brien both explained that the changes were made primarily for the sake of consistency.

Commissioners also received comments from Willimantic resident Henry Crane. He asked commissioners to consider the Town Council's recommendation that entities outside of the Willimantic Taxing District be able to hire the services of Willimantic police officers when they need coverage for special events.

3. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Minutes for May 29, 2014. Correct minutes to show that Victor Rayhall was not at the May 29, 2014 meeting. Moved by Commissioner Pennewill and Seconded by Commissioner Root to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2014 meeting, with that amendment. Motion Carried.
4. Chairman's Report: Chairman O'Brien reported that he had received a few responses to the draft charter, some asking for new items to be added such as eliminating the budget referendums. According to State statutes, no further changes are allowed at this time; section 7-191 allows the Commission merely to respond to the Town Council proposals submitted to the Commission.
5. Commissioner Discussion and possible action regarding the **Recommendations** voted by the Town Council to amend the **Draft Charter** in preparation for the Commission's convening with the Town Council during the Council meeting to be held on Tuesday, August 5, 2014. Copies of the **Draft Charter** and **Town Council Recommendations** have been previously emailed to all Charter Revision Commissioners, and were available for inspection at this meeting. A copy of the **Draft Charter** may be viewed by going to the home page of the Town website under "Documents." A copy of the **Town Council Recommendations** should be available to interested persons at the Office of the Town Clerk or the Office of the Town Manager at Town Hall.

TC#1 The Town Council recommended that Section IX-2 of the Town Charter be amended to **allow the Willimantic Police Department to provide police services outside the boundaries of the former City of Willimantic, subject to the approval of the Willimantic Service District.**

After much discussion, Moved by Commissioner Root and Seconded by Commissioner Pennewill that Chapter IX-2 of the Charter be returned to the Town Council as the Commission has previously proposed, mostly because the Commissioners were confused in various ways by this recommendation of the Council and some expressed concern that this proposal might somehow lead to the extension of the jurisdiction of the Willimantic Police to the Windham villages against the will of Windham villagers and at substantial cost to them. The motion carried with Commissioner Lary opposed.

TC#2 The Town Council recommended that Chapter V-4 of the draft Town Charter be **changed to delete the Council voting procedure proposed by the Commission back to what it is in the current Charter, so that it continues to take at least five affirmative votes (rather than the Commission recommended four votes) to adopt a Town Council motion.** It was moved by Commissioner Pennewill, and seconded by Commissioner Root to accept the change (deletion) recommended by the Town Council. After much discussion, the Motion carried. Commissioner Schold abstained.

TC#3A The Town Council recommended that the Charter Revision Commission **“clean-up” their proposed Charter language pertaining to the Commission’s proposed changes to the current service districts.** In response, it was moved by Commissioner Schold and seconded by Commissioner Root to delegate to the Chairman responsibility to make numerous editorial and cosmetic changes, for example, “term” should be changed to “word” on page 1 of the Draft Charter, 4<sup>th</sup> line of paragraph 1, and 1<sup>st</sup> line of paragraph 2; also, correct section 10-7 to say the Board of Finance will cause notice of the annual budget meeting to be published by the Town Clerk. The motion passed unanimously.

TC#3B The Town Council recommended **that a budget referendum be required in each service/tax district to approve proposed service/tax district budgets.** After general discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Lary, and seconded by Commissioner Rayhall that this recommendation be rejected. Motion carried with Commissioner Schold opposed.

TC#4A and TC#4B The Town Council recommended that the Windham Charter Revision Commission **strike all but the last sentence of section IX-3 of the proposed Town Charter, changing the last sentence to read that one Fire Marshall shall be appointed for the entire Town including both service/tax districts and requesting that the last sentence as amended be relocated within the Town Charter to a chapter dealing with the Town General Government.** Moved by Commissioner Lary, Seconded by Commissioner Pennewill to make Section IX-3 “empty” and create a new Chapter V11-4a to provide that “There shall be a Fire Marshal appointed by the Town Manager.” The motion carried unanimously.

TC#5B The Town Council recommended that the Windham Charter Revision Commission **clean-up punctuation and formatting in their next version of the Town Charter.** This has already been done by Chairman O'Brien.

TC#6 (No action required). The Council and Commission agree that Chapter VII-2 be left as recommended by the Commission.

TC#7 The Town Council recommended to the Windham Charter Revision Commission that they **not change the current language of section III-3 of the Town Charter as it pertains to the election of the Board of Education.** Commissioners discussed this issue. Chairman

O'Brien believes if it is properly explained to the Town Council, they will agree. Commissioner Schold suggested making a chart that explains it clearly. It was moved by Commissioner Lary and Seconded by Commissioner Schold to leave this section unchanged as it was previously supplemented by the Commission, adding a final sentence to the Chapter which incorporates General Statutes sections 9-204b and 9-167a. The motion carried by a 5 to 2 vote with Commissioner Pennewill and Commissioner Root opposed.

6. Citizens and Delegations (3 minutes, related to Charter, Commissioners may ask questions or seek clarification) Joe Marsalisi repeated his concern about Police and Fire and the changing of the Willimantic Service District to a Willimantic Taxing District.
7. Adjournment: Moved by Commissioner Root and Seconded by Commissioner Pennewill, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.