

Windham Charter Revision Commission

Windham Town Hall, Thursday September 26<sup>th</sup> 2013

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jessica Niles clerk of the Town Charter Commission

Attendees: Erika Haynes, Jan-Maya Schold, Doug Lary, Priscilla Root, Dennis O'Brien, Barbara McGrath

1. Call to order: Erika Haynes called the meeting to order at 7:03pm
2. Citizens and Delegations- none
3. Discussion and possible action to approve minutes for September 12, 2013- several changes were brought up, spelling of Munis, changing Board of Finance to Department of Finance: Barbara McGrath made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Priscilla Root- discussion as held regarding having a summary of all action taken. Motion passed (1 abstention- Dennis O'Brien).
4. Discussion and possible action related to: board of finance, single finance department and other financial related issues: for the October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting there should be language from Neil and Cody. Discussion took place regarding the treasurer being the Town Clerk: Erika will put the question out there.
5. Commissioner discussion and possible action related to chapters I-III reviewing both existing charter and the recommendations of previous defunct Charter Revision Commission: skip 1<sup>st</sup> three paragraphs for now.
  - I-I Majority vote: this came up because it has been a legal expense based on the unclear language. Discussion took place on where abstentions and recusals count. Commissioners decided that the # of affirmative votes must be the majority of votes including abstentions
  - II-I : Powers: Discussion took place in regards to the charter having language that refers back to "something else" . Commissioners decided to delete the entire first sentence.
  - II-II Rights and Obligations: leave it as it
  - II-3 Effect of charter: leave it as is. Discussion took place on if there is another section that deals with obligations in terms of quality of life. Commissioners felt maybe it should not be laid out in the charter but needs to be enforced by a person based on their job description.
  - I-I Definitions: Elector **input language from Jan-Maya Schold handout**).

**Voter:** Dennis O'Brien suggested changing it to read any natural person who is a resident of the town and of the age of 18years or more who jointly or severally is liable to the town for taxes against them on the assessment of not less than \$1000 on the last completed grand list of the town, or who would be liable if not entitled to an exemption may vote. Commissioners discussed the different types of voters there could be and the requirements for being allowed to vote: citizen of the US, resident, property owners? The topic will be moved to the next meeting.
6. Future Agenda Items: the meeting with Dr. Adamowski will be rescheduled for a date after October
7. Citizens and Delegations:

8. Adjournment: Doug Lary made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Barbara McGrath: motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:49pm