

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

The Charter Revision Commission met in the Wethersfield Town Manager's Conference Room on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

Present: Chairperson Dan Silver, Vice Chairperson Steve Kirsche, Louis Laccavole, Mary Pelletier, Mike Zaleski, John McAuliffe and T. William Knapp

Also Present: Town Manager Jeff Bridges

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Silver at 7:00 pm.

Chairperson Silver asked if anyone had any motions regarding the minutes from the last (February 12, 2015) meeting.

- **Commissioner McAuliffe moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Knapp. All Commissioners present voted "AYE" unanimously. Motion passed. 7-0-0**

Public Comment

- While there were members of the public present, they chose not to comment.

Agenda Items

A) Discussion of topics addressed at the March 26, 2015 Public Hearing

- Chairperson Silver stated that he felt that the one major issue that came out of the public hearing was that of the Parks & Recreation Board and opened the floor for discussion.
- Vice Chairperson Silver brought to the Commission's attention that the word "advise" appears still appears in Section 510 and that the interpretation of the Parks Director was that it maintained the Board as advisory. The Commission felt that this was not so and opted not to change it.
- Chairperson Silver then asked Town Manager Bridges what, if any, potential ramifications there were to the Commission's decision as pertaining to the budget. Would the fact that they granted the Board decision-making authority give them the duty of creating the budget?
 - Commissioner Knapp felt that it should not affect the budget. He stated that just because the Commission gave decision-making authority to the Parks & Recreation Board does not mean they have to use it. He stated that the Commission was trying to look forward to a time when perhaps the Director and the Board potentially do not work so smoothly together.
 - Town Manager Bridges stated that the Commission needs to provide the Parks & Recreation Director with a clear line of who is making decisions. That if they stay an advisory board that recommendations go through the Town Manager, or if an ordinance needs to be changed that it goes through the Council. If they are a regulatory, can they make rules that have penalties without administrative or Council review. Commissioner Pelletier feels that, per Section 604, the Director makes rules with the approval of the Board. Therefore, the Board is not really making the rules, just having a more active role and can say "yes" or "no" to what the Director proposes.
 - Chairperson Silver stated that he had Attorney Chapell draw up some language in case the Commission wanted to reopen the discussion for a vote. However,

since only someone from the prevailing can decide to reopen it, the point is moot as no one wishes to make any changes.

- **Commissioner Knapp moved to approve the Commission's work and send the draft to the Town Council, seconded by Commissioner McAuliffe. All Commissioners present voted "AYE." Motion passed. 7-0-0**

Chairperson Silver reiterated the next steps in the Charter Revision process. The draft and final report will be sent to the Town Council for their review. They will have a public hearing and then send it back to the Commission with their comments. The Commission then discusses and agrees or disagrees. The Council then makes the final decision as to what appears on the ballot. Chairperson Silver thanked everyone for their service on the Charter Revision Commission.

Commissioner McAuliffe moved for adjournment. Commissioner Zaleski seconded. All those present voted "AYE" unanimously. The motion passed. 7-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sónia Betz, Secretary

Language for Sections 713 and 714, proposed by Commissioner Mary Pelletier (composed by Atty. Jonathan Chappell):

Section 713:

Purchases shall be made under such rules and regulations as may be established, by ordinance, provided that if any purchase or contract for purchasing, including as continuing order or contract for the purchase of the same commodity over a period of time, involves the expenditure of the maximum sum allowed by CGS §7-148v ~~twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000)~~ or more, the Purchasing Agent shall invite sealed bids or proposals, giving at least ten (10) days' public notice thereof, by at least one (1) publication in a newspaper which has a general circulation in the town, and the Council shall let the purchase or contract to the lowest bidder thereon or shall reject all such bids and proposals. All such sealed bids or proposals shall be opened publicly.

Section 714:

Contracts for the construction of streets, sewers, buildings and other public works shall be made under such rules and regulations as may be established, by ordinance, provided that if any such contract involves the expenditure of the maximum sum allowed by CGS §7-148v ~~twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000)~~ or more, the Purchasing Agent shall invite sealed bids or proposals, giving at least ten (10) days' public notice thereof by at least one (1) publication in a newspaper which has a general circulation in the town, and the Council shall let the purchase or contract to the lowest responsible bidder thereon or shall reject all such bids and proposals. All such sealed bids or proposals shall be opened publicly. No transaction essentially a unit shall be divided for the purpose of evading the provision of this section. Records of all bids shall be open to public inspection.