

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

Special Meeting

Monday, July 12, 2021 7:00 P.M.

Via Zoom teleconference

Phone: 1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 839 5609 2404

The July 12, 2021 joint meeting of the Charter Revision Commission and Board of Selectmen was called to order by S. Pierog at 7:18 PM.

1. CALL TO ORDER

CRC MEMBERS PRESENT: CRC Chair Gwen Marrion, Richard Hayes, Jay Brudz, Adam Teller, and John Toomey.

CRC MEMBERS ABSENT: CRC Vice Chair Eleanor Georges and Jim Aldrich

BoS MEMBERS PRESENT: First Selectman Sandy Pierog, Bob Morra, Kim Miller, Bob DePietro

BoS MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrative Officer Jim Rupert, Board Clerk Michael Stankov, CV Channel Representative Skylar

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

S. Pierog called for public comment, but there was none.

3. REVIEW OF AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TOWN OF BOLTON CHARTER

S. Pierog noted that she continued to be opposed to section 10.2(G), the subject of which is incompatible offices. In particular, S. Pierog opposed the prohibition proposed by the CRC against the town administrator serving in any number of positions in the fire services.

K. Miller asked why this provision was introduced in the first place. G. Marrion and J. Brudz noted that the position of the Town Administrator controls an enormous amount of influence over writing the budget, and there is the potential for bias, subconscious bias or even a perception of bias, in favor of the fire services during the budgeting process as a result. A. Teller noted that the Town Administrator is the one person in town hall responsible for all crises, not just fire calls, that may occur in town, and that it would be good for the permanent crisis manager of the town to not need to be responding to two different crises at once. There are also issues of Chain of Command – does the Fire Chief defer to a Town Administrator who is responding to a fire call who would otherwise be under their command? K. Miller generally agreed with the reasoning of the members of the CRC on this matter.

B. Morra next spoke up about section 7.1 and questioned whether or not the Zoning Board of Appeals should be an elected board. In his opinion, all appeals boards should be elected, as they are places where the public goes to be heard by a jury of elected peers for a redress of grievances. A. Teller noted that the only appeals that the ZBA actually hears are appeals of the Zoning Official's decisions, and that the majority of their work is issuing variances to strict application of a zoning regulation. Because of this, the ZBA isn't particularly different in the kind of work it hears than the PZC.

Discussion turned to section 12.1(A), concerning the particulars that can lead to the dismissal of a board member. The board spent some time discussing whether or not it was reasonable to dismiss an individual who did not attend half of the meetings of a board that they are a member of, even if there are extenuating circumstances in the absentee member's life. Such circumstances are generally understood to be a good reason for absence, but if such an absence is expected to extend indefinitely then it would not be unreasonable for a commission to ask that individual to resign or remove them if the absentee would not.

MOTION MADE by S. Pierog, seconded by K. Miller, to accept the report of the CRC as submitted.

DISCUSSION: None

VOTING IN FAVOR: B. DePietro, K. Miller, S. Pierog

VOTING AGAINST: B. Morra

ABSTENTIONS: None

Following the success of this vote, it was noted that the changes to the charter would be published in the newspaper within 30 days.

MOTION MADE by S. Pierog, seconded by B. Morra, to send the revised charter to referendum on November 2, 2021.

DISCUSSION: None

VOTING IN FAVOR: B. DePietro, K. Miller, S. Pierog, B. Morra

VOTING AGAINST: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

4. DISCUSS NEXT STEPS IN THE CHARTER REVISION PROCESS INCLUDING FORMAT OF BALLOT QUESTIONS.

S. Pierog next noted the six categories of questions that were proposed by the CRC in their 6/10 meeting and letter to the BoS. S. Pierog then proposed a seventh category to go along with this: The thresholds for expenditures that must be met before calling a town meeting. Agreeing to

these seven questions, the BoS discussed having the process of drafting the questions. The next meeting to discuss these questions would take place on Tuesday 20 July 2021.

5. Adjournment

S. Pierog adjourned the meeting at 8:16.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Stankov". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michael Stankov, Charter Revision Commission Board Clerk

Please see future minutes for revisions and corrections to these minutes.