

CHARTER REVISION COMMITTEE

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING June 13, 2005
7:30 p.m.**

I. Call Meeting To Order

Mr. Leborious called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. at the East Windsor Town Hall, 11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT.

II. Attendance

In attendance: Richard LeBorious, Chairman, Noreen Farmer, Kathy Bilodeau, Ralph Saunders

Unable to attend: John Parda, Joe Roberts, Peter Nevers, Cliff Nelson, Ed Filipone

NO QUORUM

III. Added Agenda Items – None.

IV. Public Participation - None.

V. Written Communications – Items distributed to Commission members (mailed to members unable to attend)

- CTCMA 2004/2005 Salary Survey;
- Correspondence from Edward P. Farrell dated June 7, 2005;
- Email communication from John Zawilinski dated May 24, 2005;
- Anonymous (from “husband” and “wife”) notations to Charter Revision Commission on forum flyer;
- Memo from Caroline G. Madore, Assessor dated June 13, 2005.

VI. Previous Minutes

- i. May 9, 2005 Regular Meeting**
- ii. May 26, 2005 Regular Meeting**

Deferred to next meeting.

VII. Continued Review Of Charter And Discussion Of Potential Revision(s)

- **Discuss of public forum on May 26, 2005**

It was agreed that there was a pleasant turn out for the public forum. The broadcast on cable television will be beneficial for those who were unable to attend. (There is no way to glean viewership through cable company). The forum was helpful in educating the public. The Commission acknowledged that there are questions and concerns, as well as misinformation, being expressed by the public regarding the Professional Management form of government.

The Commission continued to discuss their intent to make sure the public is totally informed and to alleviate misconceptions regarding the Professional Manager option are present. The cost factor needs to be clarified for the public, for example: Who gets a salary? Will there be an increase in a salary and where will the savings be seen in the long run?

- **General review**

Discussion took place on how to proceed at this point. At this point the general issues and preliminary questions need to be decided – will the Commission go the way of presenting the idea of a paid professional? What role with the Board of Selectmen play in Town government, as is, or altered with paid professional concept? What is the role of the Town Meeting? Once these decisions are made the Commission then drafts a document reflecting those decisions and returns to a public hearing, to again gather public information.

The Commission has made, and will continue to make, a concerted effort to get public involvement. But it is time to take the information gathered to date and start the revision.

While no concrete decisions were made at the meeting, general discussion revealed that the members present voiced opinions in favor of the professional management concept in that the Town is growing and finds itself at a crossroads. Now might be the time to present to taxpayers with the concept for a change toward a professional avenue in managing local government. This would allow the elected form of government more time to focus on broad issues, rather than day to day operations.

The Commission needs to proceed to draft a realistic document – present the rationale behind the document - and let the voters decide on what they feel is best for the Town.

The cost savings through the ability to minimize liability for the Town with a professional manager needs to be addressed. The idea of getting an attorney who can explain this concept to

the Commission, and the public, was discussed. The Chairman will investigate options and report back to the Commission.

NOTE: The next scheduled meeting (June 23rd) is the same night as the Budget Referendum. The Chairman will be in contact with Commission members as to either a new location or meeting cancellation.

THE MEMBERS SHOULD MAKE AN EFFORT TO BE PRESENT AT THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING THAT IS HELD. IF A MEMBER CANNOT MAKE THE NEXT MEETING – THEY ARE ASKED TO SUBMIT SOMETHING IN WRITING OUTLINING THEIR THOUGHTS ON THE WAY TO PROCEED WITH THE CHARTER REVISION FOR THE COMMISSION TO CONSIDER – SO THE OPINION OF ALL MEMBERS CAN BE EXPRESSED AT THAT TIME.

VIII. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:10 p.m.

Made by Ms. Bilodeau, seconded by Mr. Saunders

ALL MEMBERS IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted

/cdc/

Cynthia D. Croxford
Recording Secretary