

Town of East Windsor
Charter Revision Commission

Special Meeting
April 2, 2009

Co-Chairman Butenkoff called the Meeting to order at 7:00 in the Conference Room/Auditorium, Town Hall Annex, 25 School Street, Warehouse Point, CT.

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Co-Chairman Butenkoff, Co-Chairman Matthews, Commissioners Gaudreau (arrived at 7:20 p.m.), Phillips, Riach, Riggott, Thompson, and Yosky.

Absent: Commissioner Arcari, Badstubner, and Farrell.

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

A quorum was established as eight members were present.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES, comments and acceptance - 3/26/2009 Public Hearing:

MOTION: To TABLE the Minutes of Public Hearing dated 3/26/2009.

Yosky moved/Phillips seconded/VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous

WRITTEN INPUT SUBMITTED TO CRC:

Commissioner Yosky read an e-mail received from Jack Mannette, member of the Board of Finance regarding his opinion of changing the amount of additional appropriations under CHAPTER VIII, Section 8-6 Duties of Board of Finance on Other Financial Matters (Subsection B) from \$20,000 to \$30,000. Mr. Mannette felt the amount should remain \$20,000 as directed under the Connecticut General Statutes.

The Commission decided to continue with their proposed change to \$30,000.

ADMINISTRATIVE HOUSEKEEPING:

- * Co-Chairman Butenkoff advised the Commission they have the ability to participate in the Community Day Parade on Saturday, May 9th, and to booth

from which members can discuss proposed changes with the public. Discussion followed regarding various Commissioners opinions regarding the need for the public to attend Board of Finance or Board of Selectmen meetings to advocate for more education spending, the need of the Commission to promote the charter changes, and the concerns of the public regarding the current economic conditions.

The Commission decided not to participate in the parade, or to man a booth.

- * The Commission plans to submit to the Town Clerk and the First Selectman on April 7th a copy of the currently proposed charter changes. Commissioner Yosky volunteered to attend the Board of Selectmen's April 7th Meeting to present the charter submission to the BOS.

REVIEW OF CRC MEMBERS INPUT FOR PROPOSED REVISIONS:

Nothing presented.

DISCUSSION ITEMS/a) Review of CHAPTER VII - FINANCE AND TAXATION:

- * Commissioner Yosky felt the "budget message" should be moved from Section 8-4D(3)(a) and added to the end of Section 8-4C(1). The "budget message" should also be presented to the people, not the Board of Finance.

- * **MOTION: To CHANGE CHAPTER VIII, Section 8-5 Submission of Budgets to Referendum, Subsection (4) to "one half of the Cost of Living as established by the Social Security Administration."**

Discussion: Commission Matthews wanted to add the word "annual" to the proposed change. Commissioner Gaudreau reported she didn't agree with proposing "one half of the Cost of Living increase as it fails to keep up with what's going on in the world. Commissioner Yosky noted similar comments were raised at the Commission's Public Hearing. Commissioner Riggott concurred, noting many people indicated they wanted to include a Cost of Living Increase so the budget wouldn't remain stagnant.

AMENDED MOTION: To CHANGE CHAPTER VIII, Section 8-5 Submission of Budgets to Referendum, Subsection (4) to "one half of the annual Cost of Living as established by the Social Security Administration."

**VOTE: In Favor: Matthews/Riach/Thompson/Yosky
Opposed: Gaudreau/Phillips/Riggott
Abstained: No one**

DISCUSSION ITEMS/b) Review of currently proposed changes/review for consistency, clarity, and compatibility:

* Commissioner Gaudreau felt CHAPTER IX - TOWN EMPLOYEES, Section 9.2, Employee Status, should not include a directive to send personnel contracts to the Board of Finance. The Board of Selectmen are responsible to set conditions of employment, while the Board of Finance's responsibility is to provide budget information. Discussion followed regarding direction through the Connecticut General Statutes. Co-Chairman Butenkoff noted the document will be reviewed by the Town Attorney.

MOTION: To CHANGE CHAPTER IX, Section 9.2 to read: "All employees are "at will" employees by definition. If employment contracts are issued there shall be a term limitation of three (3) years, and all contracts must be approved by the Board of Finance, Board of Selectmen, and Town Meeting. Financial consideration will be determined on the basis of the annual budget and performance."

Gaudreau moved/Phillips seconded/

VOTE: In Favor: Gaudreau, Phillips, Riach, Riggott, Thompson, Yosky

Opposed: Matthews

Abstained: No one

DISCUSSION ITEMS/c) Discussion of number of referendums: No discussion.

DISCUSSION ITEMS/d) Review and preparation of Transmittal Letter:

The Commission reviewed the draft Transmittal Letter and suggested revisions. Official copy of Transmittal Letter and Proposed Charter Revisions to be delivered to the Town Clerk, with a copy to the First Selectman.

The following questions were proposed:

- 1) Shall the Charter be revised to have an automatic Budget Referendum?
- 2) Shall the Charter be revised to require a Budget Message?
- 3) Shall the Charter be revised to allow the Board of Selectmen to provide milestone dates for the annual budget process?
- 4) Shall the Charter be revised to require the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education to add Public Hearings at the beginning of the budget process?
- 5) Shall the Charter be revised to limit all employment contracts to five years?
- 6) Shall the Charter be revised to increase the spending limit on added appropriations to \$30,000 from \$20,000?
- 7) Shall the Charter be revised to include the technical changes made to comply with the Connecticut General Statutes and collective bargaining agreements, and to

clarify ambiguities and format?

GUIDANCE FOR NEXT MEETING:

MOTION: To CANCEL the April 9, 2009 Charter Revision Commission Meeting.

Discussion: Commissioner Yosky will update the Commission at the April 23rd Meeting.

Yosky moved/Phillips seconded/VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous

ADJOURN:

MOTION: To ADJOURN this Meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Gaudreau moved/Riggott seconded/VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Peg Hoffman, Recording Secretary, East Windsor Charter Revision Commission