

TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR BOARD OF SELECTMEN

SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, July 11, 2019

6:30 p.m.

Town Hall Annex Meeting Room
25 School Street, East Windsor, CT. 06088

Meeting Minutes

**** These Minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting****

Board of Selectmen:

Robert Maynard, First Selectman
Steve Dearborn, Deputy First Selectman
Jason Bowsza, Selectman
Andy Hoffman, Selectman
Charles J. Szymanski, Selectman

ATTENDANCE: **Board of Selectmen:** Robert Maynard, First Selectman; Steve Dearborn, Deputy First Selectman; Selectmen: Jason Bowsza, Selectman; Andy Hoffman, Selectman; Charles J. Szymanski, Selectman.

ABSENT: All Selectmen were present this evening.

SPEAKERS/GUESTS: **Public:** Paul Anderson, Richard Austin, Jim Bulkeley, Betsy Burns, Jerilyn Corso, Marie DeSousa, Bob Leach, John Matthews, Sarah Muska, Charlie Nordell, Dick Pippin, Kathy Pippin, Jim Richards, Angelo Sevarino, Cathy Simonelli, Kate Carey-Trull.

Press: Anthony Branciforte, Journal Inquirer.

TIME AND PLACE OF REGULAR MEETING:

First Selectman Maynard called the Special Meeting to Order at 6:35 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex Meeting Room, 25 School Street, East Windsor, CT.

FINALIZE CHARTER REVISION RECOMMENDED CHANGES BY BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

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First Selectman Maynard reported the Board would review each proposed revision to the Charter, and make a formal motion regarding their recommendations to the Charter Revision Commission.

Proposed Charter Revisions to Create Greater Checks and Balances in Town Government:

8. Section 10-5(a) and (c): Petition Signatures (revises current language):

First Selectman Maynard reported he is proposing {in sub-paragraph (A)] to increase the time of calling the Town Meeting after certification of the petition from the Town Clerk to within 21 days (but no less than 14 days). He has also increased the number of signatures for the petition from 150 to 200 or 2% of the electors [in sub-paragraph (C)]. First Selectman Maynard indicated the reason for his changes are to allow electors to acquire the signatures and submit the paperwork to the Town Clerk. First Selectman Maynard questioned Charter Revision Commission Chairman Matthews for clarification of the process, and the revisions proposed by the Charter Revision Commission. Charter Revision Commission Chairman Matthews explained that past experience has found the Town Meeting is called within 7 days which requires that the petition must be submitted in 6 days for certification prior to the Town Meeting occurrence.

With regard to sub-paragraph (C) Selectman Bowsza cited that the proposed revision changes the current reference to the General Statutes. Attorney DeCrescenzo suggested the language presentation is a policy decision for the Board.

MOTION: To REJECT the changes proposed in Section 10-5 on the grounds that they are covered in the Statutes.

Bowsza moved/no one seconded – *motion failed.*

MOTION: To RECOMMEND to the Charter Revision Commission to change the time to hold a Town Meeting from 14 days to 21 days but no less than 14 days as presented in sub-paragraph A: “...Upon receipt of such certification from the Town Clerk, the Board of Selectmen shall, within twenty-one (21) days thereafter, but no less than fourteen (14) days thereafter to be convened a Special Town Meeting,...”AND to retain sub-paragraph C as it appears in the current Charter.

Maynard moved/Hoffman seconded/

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DISCUSSION: Selectman Bowsza felt the language as proposed in this revision actually shortens the time limit; he felt the presentation of the language was backwards. First Selectman Maynard noted the Town Clerk completes the certification process within one day. Selectman Szymanski requested clarification regarding sub-paragraph (C). Attorney DeCrescenzo indicated the revisions proposed by the Charter Revision Commission to sub-paragraph (C) would be deleted and the current Charter language would be retained.

VOTE: **In Favor:** **Maynard/Dearborn/Hoffman/Szymanski**
 Opposed: **Bowsza**
 Abstained: **No one**

Proposed Charter Revisions to Increase the Professional Capacity of Town Staff:

1. Section 6-6(B): Town Attorney (revises current language):

Selectman Hoffman felt the process for hiring a Town Attorney was no different than the Town's hiring practices for any other position. He cited as an example the recent search for a Treasurer. First Selectman Maynard suggested by adding the section to the Charter it codifies the process; he recalled his experience when beginning his term and the difficulty changing the Town Attorney. Attorney DeCrescenzo clarified that it takes 3 members of the Board of Selectmen to appoint a Town Attorney, one of which must be the First Selectman. It takes the affirmative vote of the First Selectman to make the appointment. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn didn't see a problem with the proposal; he felt the First Selectman must work with the Town Attorney, not the Board.

MOTION: **To RECOMMEND to the Charter Revision Commission
 that Section 6-6(B) Town Attorney as proposed on
 6/20/2019 be forwarded to the Charter Revision
 Commission.**

Maynard moved/Dearborn seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: **In Favor:** **Maynard/Dearborn/Hoffman/Szymanski**
 Opposed: **Bowsza**
 Abstained: **No one**

2. Section 6-6(D): Finance Director/Treasurer (re-names Treasurer):

First Selectman Maynard recalled the Board had concurred with this revision at a previous meeting. Selectman Szymanski questioned if both titles should be included? Attorney DeCrescenzo replied many other town charters reference both titles. Selectman Bowsza cited other references to the Treasurer in the current Charter; he questioned if those references will be noted under the revised Charter? Discussion continued regarding the continuing Charter revision process. Attorney DeCrescenzo noted that if

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the Charter Revision Commission adopts the Board of Selectmen's recommendation the final report comes back to the Board of Selectmen; attachment C will be a red-line Charter which includes all the references from Treasurer to Finance Director/Treasurer revised.

MOTION: To RECOMMEND to the Charter Revision Commission to adopt the changes made to Section 6-6(D) – Finance Director/Treasurer.

Szymanski moved/Maynard seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

**VOTE: In Favor: Maynard/Dearborn/Bowsza/Hoffman/Szymanski
(No one opposed/No Abstentions)**

3. Section 6-6(H): Administrative Officer (new position):

First Selectman Maynard reported he is proposing additional changes to Section 6.6(H) Administrative Officer sub-paragraph (b). He indicated he has shortened the Charter Revision Commission's proposal by removing language which he felt would be included in a job description. First Selectman Maynard read his revised language for sub-paragraph (b).

Selectman Hoffman indicated he'd like to refer this section back to the Charter Revision Commission to provide a general outline of the tasks assigned to the Administrative Officer in the job description. Selectman Bowsza indicated he's opposed to this entire section because it conflicts with other sections of the Charter which have not been proposed for change, and the Board can hire this position currently; he felt the position shouldn't be listed in the Charter. Selectman Hoffman cited the Charter currently calls for a Treasurer. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn acknowledged Selectman Bowsza's comments but felt that if the position is in the Charter then it's mandatory for the Board of Selectmen to fill the position. Attorney DeCrescenzo suggested whether it's the Finance Director or the Tax Collector, which are specified in the current Charter, if the Board of Selectmen chooses to appoint someone then the Board of Finance has an obligation to fund it.

Discussion continued regarding how the position would be funded when the budget fails 3 times and goes to the 2% default. Attorney DeCrescenzo indicated that when the 2% defaults on the Town side of the budget the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance would have to decide how to fund that position, as they would with the Tax Collector or the Town Clerk. Selectman Bowsza cited contractual obligations which must be met under the defaulted budget. First Selectman Maynard cited the Boards look at the overall budget when adjusting to the 2% default. Selectman Szymanski felt the people should have the ability to decide on the November ballot if they want to fund this position. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn felt the Town needs a person with the knowledge and

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the skills to run the Town like a business. Selectman Szymanski suggested the language should include more substance with regard to the job responsibilities.

MOTION: To RECOMMEND to the Charter Revision Commission to adopt the changes proposed on 7/11/2019 which revises sub-paragraph (b) to “...~~CRC TO BE MORE SPECIFIC IN THE DUTIES~~ The Administrative Officer shall be responsible for day to day operations of Town Departments ~~except the WPCA and the Housing Authority~~ and shall report to and assist the First Selectman in carrying out all acts and policies of the Board of Selectmen, and all resolutions and ordinances adopted by the Town. The Administrative Officer shall also be responsible for, at a minimum, (a) research of comparative data analysis from other municipalities of budget and program reviews and (b) assisting the First Selectman in the administration of the town Departments consistent with this Charter and his/her job description. ~~And policies established by the Board of Selectmen and for carrying out such other duties and responsibilities as set forth in this Charter.~~ AND, with the reservation that there must be more substance to the responsibilities.

Szymanski moved/Maynard seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: In Favor: Maynard/Dearborn/Hoffman/Szymanski
Opposed: Bowsza
Abstained: No one

Proposed Charter Revisions to Enhance Town Department Coordination:

4. Section 6-6(I): Police Department (new section):

First Selectman Maynard reviewed the language as revised by the Board previously. Selectman Bowsza cited that sub-paragraph (a) establishes the Police Department as a Town Department; he questioned what was it now? First Selectman Maynard suggested it's a Police Department established under the General Statutes. First Selectman Maynard indicated currently the Police Department follows the direction of the Police Commission. He recalled that when he first took office the Police Chief told him he didn't have to talk to him. Selectman Bowsza questioned how that would change under this proposal? First Selectman Maynard indicated they would operate under the same policies and procedures as other Town departments. Selectman Bowsza questioned if this change vacates policies established by the Police Commission? First Selectman Maynard suggested discussion of Section 7.7 regarding the Police Commission would address that situation.

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Discussion continued regarding how establishing the Police Department as a Town department would address policing policies, such as officer or shift assignments, collective bargaining issues, and personnel issues. Attorney DeCrescenzo suggested, as an example, if the Police Commission were to establish a minimum officer per shift policy, and if you had to fill that policy by overtime That would have to be adhered to by the Police Chief. If a policy to freeze overtime had been established the First Selectman would have to make an exception to the overtime freeze. Selectman Bowsza cited language in Section 7-7: Police Commission regarding the Commission's responsibilities not inconsistent with the Charter. Attorney DeCrescenzo suggested if there were a policy that didn't interfere with the policies of the Police Commission, such as overtime for administrative clerks who are not part of the sworn force. Attorney DeCrescenzo suggested there isn't a town that doesn't need to create a working relationship between the Police Commission and the Police Department and the Town. He suggested no one could argue that the Police Department is a department of the Town; this section just clarifies who the people answer to; the language doesn't change that. The Police Department reports to the Police Commission for matters of policing by the sworn officers, and reports to the First Selectman for matters that relate to general operation.

First Selectman Maynard cited his worksheet, noting he felt section 7-7: Police Commission, needs more work. He indicated he'd like to see the Police Commission follow the General Statutes. Attorney Decrescenzo noted under the latest (6/20/2019) revision that language has been stricken but the Police Commission is allowed to do those things under the General Statutes with regard to personnel, policing, and collective bargaining matters.

MOTION: To RECOMMEND to the Charter Revision Commission to adopt the changes proposed on 6/20/2019 and presented on 7/11/2019.

Maynard moved/Hoffman seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: **In Favor:** **Maynard/Dearborn/Hoffman/Szymanski**
 Opposed: **Bowsza**
 Abstained: **No one**

5. Section 7-7: Police Commission (replaces ordinance):

First Selectman Maynard read the Board of Selectmen's recommended changes to the Charter Revision Commission's proposed Section 7-7, which essentially retains sub-paragraphs (a) and (c), and deletes sub-paragraphs (b) and (d). Attorney DeCrescenzo indicated that under the previous section it clarified the Police Department as a department of the Town subject to all the rules and regulations of the Town. This section retains all the powers of the Police Commission that they have today except those that are shifted over under the previous section regarding personnel, policing, and collective bargaining. Selectman Szymanski questioned that the way the section is written retains

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the powers they have today; this section is not in conflict with the changes to the Police Department section. Attorney DeCrescenzo replied it was not. Selectman Bowsza questioned if the language under Section 6-6(I) Police Department is included in the Charter could the Board of Selectmen impose a policy on the Police Department? Attorney DeCrescenzo suggested it would depend on the policy. He suggested the language clarifies that the Board of Selectmen could tell the Police Department that they need to create a 5 year plan for capital equipment. If the policy was the 5 year plan the language in the 2 sections makes it clear that the 5 year plan also applies to the Police Department, and the Chief couldn't say we're not going to do that.

Selectman Hoffman felt there are 2 issues; 1) we should re-incorporate sub-paragraphs (d) – personnel matters, and (e) – collective bargaining matters into this section as he felt they should be within the purview of the Police Commission, and 2) should the Board charge the Charter Revision Commission to define the language where the Police Commission and the First Selectman begins and ends? Attorney DeCrescenzo suggested that in their recommendation back to the Charter Revision Commission the Board isn't limited to the language, the recommendation could be to create a line between the Police Commission and the First Selectman.

MOTION: To RECOMMEND to the Charter Revision Commission to further define Section 7-7: Police Commission so as to have a clearer definition of their responsibilities and the Police Department responsibilities and to consider the charge of the Police Commission with regard to the Statutes.

Maynard moved/no second – *motion failed*

Selectman Hoffman indicated he's looking for a better delineated line between the Board of Selectmen and the First Selectman, and how that will work with the Police Commission and the Police Department.

MOTION: To RECOMMEND to the Charter Revision Commission that they provide a better definition of the separation between the authority of the First Selectman and the Board of Selectman and that of the Police Commission.

Hoffman moved/Maynard seconded/DISCUSSION: Selectman Bowsza questioned what's the current practice that isn't working that this proposal is trying to fix? First Selectman Maynard indicated the problem is a lack of communication between the Board of Selectmen and the Police Department; something needs to be done to make them work better together. Selectman Bowsza felt the Police Department functions within a chain of command; he felt this language confuses that. First Selectman Maynard felt that the organization for which the Chief speaks functions under him; he didn't feel this language changes that.

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VOTE: **In Favor:** **Maynard/Dearborn/Hoffman/Szymanski**
 Opposed: **Bowsza**
 Abstained: **No one**

6. Section 8-3: Finance General Provisions (revises current section):

Selectman Hoffman felt that the interdepartmental transfers [sub-paragraph (F)], and the rules for expenditures and bidding [sub-paragraph (G)] both have merit but both paragraphs have been deleted by the Board of Selectmen. He indicated that the money involved in the interdepartmental transfers is money the Board of Finance has already signed off on during the budget process and would go back to the General Fund if it's not spent. This proposal would enable departments who have surplus funds to agree to the transfer of those funds to another department that would be short of funding. Selectman Hoffman clarified the amounts being considered are small, and the transfers would be considered at the end of a fiscal year.

With regard to the bidding process [sub-paragraph (F)] Selectman Hoffman indicated it's customary to have bids submitted to a centralized location, and opened during a public process. First Selectman Maynard felt the Charter Revision Commission's intent was to have the bids opened at Town Hall. He recalled previous administrations didn't want to handle the process so the Department of Public Works took it over.

Selectman Bowsza felt the interdepartmental transfers can be done now; Selectman Hoffman felt that wasn't occurring presently. Selectman Szymanski noted the Charter isn't just for the present time but is a document meant to specify the process for the future.

**MOTION: To RECOMMEND to the Charter Revision Commission with
 sub-paragraph F Interdepartmental Transfers and G Rules for
 Expenditures and Bidding.**

Szymanski moved/Hoffman seconded/**DISCUSSION:** Selectman Bowsza reiterated both are policy determinations that can be done already by the Board of Selectmen rather than putting these functions in the Charter. First Selectman Maynard reported he would be voting against the interdepartmental transfers but would agree with the centralized bidding process. Selectman Hoffman felt the Board should have the ability to use funds which have already been voted on by the voters and would otherwise be returned to the General Fund to be used for things that would benefit the public, such as improving Town signage. Selectman Szymanski suggested this transfer process takes place in other towns. He also noted the amount being considered is small in comparison to the overall budget, and this proposal gives the Board of Selectman the ability to do things we never have money for, such as the signage. Selectman Szymanski clarified the money won't be

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spent on frivolous things. Selectman Bowsza suggested this can be done today through a Town Meeting which includes a vote of the voters; he noted there's significant money in the Fund Balance to do these things.

VOTE: **In Favor:** **Hoffman/Szymanski**
 Opposed: **Maynard/Dearborn/Bowsza**
 Abstained: **No one**

(Motion failed)

MOTION: **To RECOMMEND to the Charter Revision Commission to move forward with what was presented for sub-paragraph G: Rules for Expenditures and Bidding.**

Maynard moved/Hoffman seconded/**DISCUSSION:** None.

VOTE: **In Favor:** **Maynard/Dearborn/Hoffman**
 Opposed: **Bowsza**
 Abstained: **Szymanski**

Proposed Charter Revisions to Create Greater Checks and Balances in Town Government:

7. Section 8-9: Audit (revises current section):

First Selectman Maynard reported he would like to see the frequency of the audits increased from the 4 years as proposed to every 10 years.

MOTION: **To RECOMMEND to the Charter Revision Commission to move forward with Section 8-9 with regard to operational audits as presented.**

Szymanski moved/Hoffman seconded/**DISCUSSION:** Selectman Bowsza questioned the cost of the proposed audits? First Selectman Maynard suggested the estimated cost could range from \$10,000 for a small three person department to \$70,000 for a larger more complex department such as the Treasurer. Selectman Bowsza questioned the GASB recommendation for the frequency of audits? Selectman Szymanski indicated he was shocked to find that the Town has never had an operational audit. The cost would depend on the scope of the audit and the size of the department. Citing his professional experience Selectman Szymanski suggested the cost of audits could range from \$1,000 for a small department to larger amounts for more complex departments. The Town would bring in consultants, explain the purpose of the audit, and engage the consulting firm. Selectman Szymanski indicated the cost would be an unknown until the initial audit is performed. Selectman Hoffman cited the bigger consideration is how much will we save by performing the audits. There are always efficiencies and improvements to be

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made. The money saved by performing the audit will continue on in operational efficiencies.

Discussion continued regarding the frequency. Selectman Szymanski suggested it makes no sense to do the audits every 10 years. First Selectman Maynard cited there are 14 Town departments; at a 4 year frequency 3+ departments would have to be done each year. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn cited concern for disruption of the department while the audits are going on; he suggested stretching out the frequency.

VOTE: **In Favor:** **Hoffman/Szymanski**
 Opposed: **Maynard/Dearborn/Bowsza**
 Abstained: **No one**

First Selectman Maynard suggested a 6 year frequency as a compromise.

MOTION: **To RECOMMEND to the Charter Revision Commission to move forward with Section 8-9: Audits as written but change the frequency of the audits from 4 years to 6 years.**

Maynard moved/Dearborn seconded/DISCUSSION: (comments preceded motion)

VOTE: **In Favor:** **Maynard/Dearborn/Hoffman/Szymanski**
 Opposed: **Bowsza**
 Abstained: **No one**

9. Section 10-10: Power of Overrule (new section):

First Selectman Maynard suggested he would propose in the first paragraph to delete “(a) personnel, and (b) an action affecting public health and safety.” Selectman Hoffman felt this was a worthless change; he would like to see this section dropped; Selectman Bowsza and Deputy First Selectman Dearborn concurred. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn felt the people voted for the Board because they trust us to act on their behalf; he felt there was no reason for this section.

MOTION: **To RECOMMEND to the Charter Revision Commission that Section 10-10: Power of Overrule be REJECTED.**

Bowsza moved/Hoffman seconded/DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: **In Favor:** **Maynard/Dearborn/Bowsza/Hoffman/Szymanski**
 (No one opposed/No abstentions)

Proposed Charter Revisions to Improve Transparency and Encourage Greater Public Participation in Town Government:

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10. Section 8-6: Duties of the Board of Finance re: Supplemental Appropriations (revises current language):

First Selectman Maynard reported this Section is proposing a narrative of a supplemental appropriation would be submitted to and approved by the Finance Director/Treasurer. He is proposing a further change to sub-paragraph (B) to require that the narrative be submitted to the Town Clerk 7 calendar days prior to the date of the Board of Finance considers the supplemental appropriation. Selectman Bowsza questioned why submit the narrative to the Town Clerk? First Selectman Maynard felt the Town Clerk is the person to whom people give information for posting so people can see the issue and attend a Board of Finance Meeting and speak. Selectman Bowsza felt this proposal is also a policy decision which could be handled by the Board of Selectmen. First Selectman Maynard cited the Board hasn't made such a proposal; Selectman Bowsza suggested the Board should propose something. Selectman Szymanski felt the proposal should be included in the Charter as he hasn't seen much in the way of narratives associated with supplemental appropriation requests. First Selectman Maynard felt it's important for the public to have knowledge of what the supplemental appropriation requests are; that information isn't reflected on the Board of Finance's agendas. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn questioned that if it were done Selectman Bowsza way it could be changed by a subsequent Board of Selectmen? First Selectman Maynard indicated a new Board could change the policy and the Board of Finance could ignore the policy.

MOTION: To RECOMMEND to the Charter Revision Commission to move forward with Section 8-6: Duties of the Board of Finance re: Supplemental Appropriations with language revisions presented 7/11/2019: "A narrative justification shall be submitted by the requesting department, commission or agency ~~as approved by the Finance Director/Treasurer~~ to the Town Clerk Board of Finance supporting the need for the supplemental appropriation from the requesting Town department or agency seven (7) calendar days prior to the date the Board of Finance considers the supplemental appropriation.

Maynard moved/Dearborn seconded/**DISCUSSION:** (comments preceded motion)

VOTE: In Favor: Maynard/Dearborn/Hoffman/Szymanski
Opposed: Bowsza
Abstained: No one

11. Section 10-8(I): Board of Finance Review of Proposed Town Meeting Action (revises current language):

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First Selectman Maynard recalled the Board had recommended this Section be dropped at a previous meeting.

MOTION: To RECOMMEND to the Charter Revision Commission to DROP Section 10-8(I): Board of Finance Review of Proposed Town Meeting Action.

Bowsza moved/Maynard seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: In Favor: Maynard/Dearborn/Bowsza/Hoffman/Szymanski
(No one opposed/No abstentions)

12. Section 10-9: Automatic Referendum (new section):

First Selectman Maynard noted the Board had deleted the dollar amount and changed the value to one half of one percent of the annual budget; he would now propose the percentage be changed to 1 percent (1%). Selectman Hoffman indicated he preferred the one half of one percent (1/2%).

MOTION: To RECOMMEND to the Charter Revision Commission that they incorporate the changes as shown on Section 10-9: Automatic referendum.

Hoffman moved/Szymanski seconded/DISCUSSION: Selectman Bowsza opposed this proposal as he felt it's intended to resolve personal issues. Selectman Szymanski felt the proposed addresses the people's desire for transparency from the Boards; this proposal enables the public to know what their money is being spent on. This proposal makes it clear what the amount is and what the expenditure is for. Selectman Bowsza felt this section is an unnecessary change that obligates us to do something that people might not want to do; he felt this was settling a score. Selectman Hoffman felt the litmus test is the amount of money; he felt the voter should have the opportunity to tell us if they want us to spend their money.

VOTE: In Favor: Dearborn/Hoffman/Szymanski
Opposed: Bowsza
Abstained: Maynard

General formatting revisions:

Attorney DeCrescenzo noted one of the charges the Board assigned to the Charter Revision Commission was to specify the Statute being referenced in the Charter; he suggested the Board should include that recommendation to the Charter Revision Commission in their report. Selectman Hoffman questioned if the Statute would be identified by number or title? Attorney DeCrescenzo indicated it's usually done by number. Selectman Hoffman questioned if would be reasonable to include the title? Attorney DeCrescenzo suggested the document becomes wordy

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when including the title as well but he could include an Addenda which referenced the number and title of each specific Statute.

MOTION: To RECOMMEND to the Charter Revision Commission that they include the numerical references to the Connecticut General Statutes, and they include an Addenda to the Charter that identifies the Title to the C.G.S. referrals.

Hoffman moved/Maynard seconded/DISCUSSION: None.

**VOTE: In Favor: Maynard/Dearborn/Bowsza/Hoffman/Szymanski
(No one opposed/No abstentions)**

13. Section 8-5(A) and (B): Separate Budget Questions:

First Selectman Maynard indicated this Section proposes that the budget as approved by the Board of Finance shall be submitted to the voters in the form of 2 questions, one for the Board of Education and one for the Town government.

MOTION: To RECOMMEND to the Charter Revision Commission that the budget be divided into two (2) questions, one (1) for the Board of Education budget and one (1) for the Town Government budget.

Hoffman moved/Szymanski seconded/DISCUSSION: Selectman Bowsza indicated the Board of Finance can do this already; it's under their power to present separate budgets. Selectman Bowsza felt this proposal is divisive; by putting this in the Charter he felt this codifies pitting the people for care for the school system and those you don't against each other. Selectman Szymanski noted that in the past we've not paid attention to the fact that 2 separate budgets come before the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance – one for the Board of Education and one for Town government. It's logical that the voters should be able to vote on those 2 presentations. Selectman Szymanski felt the public should have the right to consider the budgets as the Board of Finance does; he felt it's the people's money; they should have a say in how they want their money spent. Selectman Hoffman cited the Charter Revision Commission survey which asked people if they would prefer multiple budgets and the overwhelming response was yes. Selectman Hoffman recalled when he was questioned about what was perceived to be a small response he called the Quinnipiac Polling Center, who told him while the number was small the percentage of the response – 4 to 1 in favor of multiple budgets – was a significant percentage of people in favor of the proposal. Selectman Hoffman felt the people want to have that ability as well. Deputy First Selectman Dearborn felt by adding this proposal to the Charter it makes it law. First Selectman Maynard felt putting this question on the ballot will give the whole Town a choice, but he understood by putting it in the Charter it would be hard to change it. First Selectman Maynard indicated he would like to see the change but he didn't want it to be law.

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VOTE:	In Favor:	Dearborn/Hoffman/Szymanski
	Opposed:	Maynard/Bowsza
	Abstained:	No one

First Selectman Maynard reported these recommendations will be given to the Town Clerk tomorrow, and will be referred to the Charter Revision Commission. The Board of Selectmen and the Charter Revision Commission will meet at a later date to discuss resolution of the final report.

First Selectman Maynard opened discussion to the public.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Paul Anderson, 89 Main Street: Regarding concept #9 (Section 10-10: Power of Overrule), Mr. Anderson cited the specifics of the proposal - 200 electors or 5% of the electors, and 60% of those voting shall have voted in favor of overruling the action. He questioned if we have the actual number of eligible voters because he felt the voter list wasn't the answer, as this is a Town Meeting at which other people are eligible to vote. Attorney DeCrescenzo suggested the way this proposal is written the voters can't initiate this petition, only the electors – those people who are registered to vote or owe \$1,000 in property taxes - can do that.

Jim Richards, 27 Pleasant Street: Mr. Richards thanked Selectman Bowsza for his knowledge of policy and the Charter. Mr. Richards suggested policy is based on who's in charge. Mr. Richards felt job descriptions shouldn't be in the Charter. Mr. Richards is 200% against the separate budgets. Mr. Richards felt Selectman Szymanski was correct in his information regarding the audits but Mr. Richards felt that was also a policy decision the Board of Selectmen could enact. Mr. Richards felt the Board of Selectmen should show leadership and reject the whole Charter revision proposal.

Angelo Sevareno: Mr. Sevareno reported his concern with the Charter proposals are related to his position as a Democratic Registrar of Voters. People often ask their opinion when voting, and they're looking for information. Mr. Sevareno noted he hasn't seen much information regarding the revenue impact of the Charter proposals. Mr. Sevareno is also concerned because the Charter questions will be put on the municipal ballot in November, which will also include numerous elected positions. He suggested the questions must fit on the two-sided one page ballot; he can't have a two page ballot. He cited concern that voters won't turn the ballot over to answer the questions. Mr. Sevareno is also concerned with the number of voting machines he'll have available for each voting district, as one must be reserved as a back-up machine should others fail. Mr. Sevareno questioned what the Charter Revision Commission will do to educate the people as to what the changes will do; the public needs to know why the recommendations are being done.

First Selectman Maynard reported the Board of Selectmen will choose the questions. He agreed that having the information regarding revenue impact would be important. Selectman Hoffman questioned if Mr. Sevareno could rent additional machines, or borrow some from other

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municipalities? Mr. Sevareno suggested he would investigate borrowing machines; he is still concerned with moving people through the voting process efficiently. He is concerned that people won't vote. Selectman Hoffman noted the Charter Revision Commission has spent a great deal of time considering these proposals, and they realize there's a point in time that they will have to advertise their proposals and the reasons the changes are being proposed. Selectman Hoffman suggested the Charter Revision Commission realizes it's important to get the information out on the Town website and through multi-media but it makes no sense to start that process until the Board of Selectmen has made their final report. Mr. Sevareno questioned if the Board would consider holding a referendum dedicated to the Charter revision? Selectman Hoffman felt we should vote on the proposals soon; he questioned that a presidential election might be a distraction. Selectman Hoffman was confident that we can take this opportunity to the voters.

Marie DeSousa, 10 Rice Road: Ms. DeSousa felt the Board should reject the whole proposal. She has many questions about the proposal. Ms. DeSousa objected to comments regarding "the man" being hired for the Town Administrator position.

Dick Pippin, 37 Woolam Road: Mr. Pippin felt the Charter revisions are flawed; too many things are being put in the Charter as law. You need to be careful of micro-managing. The next people elected to the Board may not be able to do that. Mr. Pippin agreed with Mr. Richards.

Cathy Simonelli, Depot Street: Ms. Simonelli referenced people's comments that the people will need to know what they'll be voting for. She's never seen a referendum question that explained what it would accomplish. Ms. Simonelli referenced Selectman Hoffman's comment that the questions need to be short and concise; Ms. Simonelli felt that to make a change as significant as this you need to get out and talk about these proposals, and the cost.

Bob Leach, 39 Church Street: Mr. Leach believed many people don't have any idea what these proposals will do. We're adopting a Police Department as a Town department which he felt eliminates the Police Commission's authority. Mr. Leach felt the language is intentional.

Kate Carey-Trull, 27 Folkstone Drive: Ms. Carey-Trull agreed with Selectman Bowsza regarding the separation of the budgets being divisive. If we put the school and the Town budgets on the referendum then all the departments should be on it; we need to support all the departments.

Paul Anderson, 89 Main Street: Regarding the "mandatory dissertation" for the supplemental appropriation request, Mr. Anderson noted the Board of Finance holds meetings, people appear and give detailed presentations. Mr. Anderson felt the obligation is on the people to find out what is being done. Mr. Anderson felt we don't need a legal requirement for a multi-page explanation, which will need follow-up discussion anyway. Mr. Anderson felt posting in the Town Clerk's Office is limited exposure. Mr. Anderson didn't feel the narrative will solve the

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problem. Mr. Anderson felt not many people show up for meetings, and then they lose out. Mr. Anderson felt we'll see a lot of "no" votes in November.

First Selectman Maynard thanked everyone for their comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: To ADJOURN this Meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Hoffman moved/Maynard seconded/DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous (Maynard/Dearborn/Bowsza/Hoffman/Szymanski)

Respectfully submitted

Peg Hoffman, Recording Secretary, East Windsor Board of Selectmen