



Town of Burlington

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES Tuesday, May 28, 2020 – Teleconference

1. Call Meeting to Order:

The meeting convened at 7:36 p.m., Tuesday, May 28, 2020. Present were: Dave Goshdigan, Chairman, Tony DiNicola, Vice Chairman, Toni Vosburgh, Secretary, Barry Faticoni and Laurie Gara, members, as well as Ginger Doherty and Jeff Vosburgh, alternates. First Selectman Ted Shafer was also in attendance.

2. Citizen Comment:

There was no citizen comment.

3. Acceptance of May 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes:

Motion made (LG), seconded (BF) and passed unanimously to accept meeting minutes.

4. Section 7-5: Duties of the Board of Finance on Budget

Motion made (TD), seconded (LG) and passed unanimously to accept draft changes for the first paragraph section 7-5 as follows:

“Following receipt of the town’s budget proposal from the Board and the budget as passed by the Board of Education, the Board of Finance shall analyze the town’s budget proposal and make changes as it deems necessary. Upon request, the department heads shall meet with the Board of Finance for the purpose of reviewing their proposed budgets. The Board of Finance is authorized to make changes to the town’s budget proposal to fulfill its fiduciary responsibilities. The Board will have the ability to review the final proposed budget prior to the Annual Town Budget Meeting. Any concerns will be discussed and reconciled between the Board and the Board of Finance prior to the Annual Town Budget Meeting.

The Board of Finance shall prepare the Annual Budget Proposal for the Annual Town Budget Meeting. The Board of Finance shall hold one or more public hearings at least ten days before the Annual Town Budget Meeting, at which any elector or taxpayer shall have an opportunity to be heard regarding the Annual Budget Proposal of the Town for the ensuing fiscal year.”

5. Section 7-7: Municipal Reserve Funds:

Vice Chairman Tony DiNicola updated the committee with the status of his draft proposal changes to Section 7-7. He has been in contact with the town accountants and was trying to get clarification on the Reserve Funds on whether money can be moved between funds. This is currently the practice but was told by the accountants that this should not be the case. Tony sent his updated draft to Jerry at the Board of Finance and the town accountants to review for legality. Chairman Goshdigan suggested to change the

language to more undefined terms such as “leave up to the Board of Finance the discretion and protocol for reserve funds.”

6. Chapter 6: Administrative Officers and Departments:

The committee discussed removing specific position names to simplify and remove the pay plan language from Barry’s suggested draft below. However, the committee noted that the Town Treasurer is neither a director nor employee of the town.

“Section 6-2 Compensation for town employees not subject to a Collective Bargaining Agreement.

The Board shall determine the compensation for the First Selectman. The First Selectman, in consultation with the Board, shall determine the compensation for the Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, Tax Collector, Assessor, and all directors and employees of the town not subject to a Collective Bargaining Agreement. Compensation shall be determined by the Board in conformity with a pay plan for the positions involved. No compensation shall be based upon any fees collected. Fees collected shall be paid to the town treasury.

(New) Section 6-3 Compensation for town employees subject to a Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Compensation for town employees subject to a Collective Bargaining Agreement shall be handled in accordance with the guidelines set for within any collective bargaining agreement then in effect.”

7. Section 3-3 – Board of Selectman, Terms

Chairman Dave Goshdigan proposed the below draft to stagger Board of Selectman terms. The committee was generally in agreement with his proposal, however, Ginger Doherty brought up a question which the committee would like to look into further. She asked if it was possible to have the municipal elections sync up with the national election to encourage better turnout. Dave to reach out to the Town Attorney and CCM to check if this is possible by adding an additional year to current terms.

“Section 3-3. Board of Selectmen. The Board shall consist of a First Selectman and four other selectmen. At the next regular municipal election following the effective date of this section, a First Selectman and two other selectmen shall be elected to serve a term of four years, and two other selectmen shall be elected to serve a term of two years. At all subsequent municipal elections, the term of the office of First Selectman and term of the office of the other selectmen shall be four years. The votes cast, including any valid write-in votes, for an unsuccessful candidate for First Selectman shall not be counted as votes for that person as one of the other selectmen. For purposes of determining minority representation only, the First Selectman shall not be counted as a member of the Board.

Section 4-1. Board of Selectmen. The Board shall consist of the First Selectman and four other selectmen. No member of the Board shall hold any other compensation, elected office under the government of the United States, the State of Connecticut, or any subdivision thereof; nor shall he, during the term of office for which he is elected, hold or be appointed to any other office under the government of the Town.”

8. Section 5-10: Board of Library Directors

The committee discussed whether there should be 7 members on the Board or 7 members with 2 alternatives to ease the transition to less members. The committee also questioned whether the Library Director should be member. Barry suggested changing to have 1 director and six advisory members that make up Board. Laurie Gara to do research on neighboring towns to see if they have any removal terms for reducing Board members and draft language for the next meeting.

9. Removal of Elected Officials from Office:

Chairman Goshdigian informed the committee that the town does not have the authority to recall elected officials since Burlington is not one of the five CT municipalities to have recall authority that was granted by a special act before the enactment of the state Constitution's home rule provision.

10. Review of Timeline/Discussion of Contingency Plan

The committee would like to hold their first public hearing by June 22nd. This would give amply time for the Selectman to also hold their public hearing and address any concerns before submitting final draft to secretary of state. The committee aims to have a full draft by June 8th, Jeff Vosburgh offered to consolidate all drafts committee members have made so far.

11. New Business:

There was no new business.

12. Adjourn:

Motion made (TD), seconded (LG) and passed unanimously to adjourn meeting at 9:11 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Toni Vosburgh
Secretary, Charter Review Committee