

MEMORANDUM

To: The Charter Review Committee
From: Chairman Dave Goshdigian
Date: July 22, 2020
Re: Recommendations from the Board of Selectmen

INTRODUCTION

On June 29, 2020, following our public hearing, the Charter Review Committee (Committee) transmitted to the Town Clerk the report of our proposed revisions to the charter for review by the Board of Selectmen (Board). The Board held meetings to discuss our report on July 7, 14, and 21, 2020, and also conducted a public hearing on the report on July 14, 2020. During the July 21 meeting, the Board finalized its recommendations regarding our proposed revisions.

The next step in the charter review process is for the Committee to review the recommendations from the Board and decide whether to amend our report. Following that review, the Committee will transmit the final version of its report to the Town Clerk. The Board's recommendations, as summarized by me, are below for your review in anticipation of our upcoming meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Section 3-4. Board of Finance. Section 5-1. General. The Board recommended that the Committee review these sections to determine whether the provisions related to staggering the terms of the Board of Finance and appointing certain positions are no longer needed.

Sections 5-21 through 5-23. Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Assessor. The Board initially recommended to the Committee that we review these sections, noting "Collective Bargaining Unit over Board Appt," and we proposed deleting these sections. The Board has recommended that these sections remain undisturbed so as to provide that the Board appoint these positions.

Section 5-24 (New). Finance Director. As part of the discussion regarding Sections 5-21 through 5-23, the Board recommended a new Section 5-24 that provides that the Finance Director will be appointed by the Board.

Section 6-2. Compensation. The Board recommended that Board approval be required for all compensation decisions. It also recommended deleting the following sentence: "Compensation shall be determined by the Board in conformity with a pay plan for the positions involved."

Section 7-5. Duties of the Board of Finance on the Budget. The Board recommended amending the language of our proposal to clarify that the Board of Finance uses the Board of Education's budget following its approval at a town referendum.

Section 7-7. Municipal Reserve Fund. The Board, along with the Chairman of the Board of Finance, recommended moving the proposed new subsection on named reserve funds to the end of this section.

Section 9-2. Job Classification and Salaries. The Board initially recommended that we review all of Chapter 9 because certain town employees are now subject to a collective bargaining agreement. In light of that recommendation, we proposed deleting the provisions that the First Selectman shall prepare a statement of the duties and responsibilities and compensation for each position, which shall be approved by the Board, and that new positions may be created or existing positions abolished. In response to a discussion during the Board's public hearing, the town attorney proposed reviving most of this section. The Board agreed with the town attorney's proposal but recommended deleting language providing that the First Selectmen shall establish compensation for each position, as that conflicts with the Board's recommendation for Section 6-2.