

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 1, 2021

6:30 p.m. Remote ZOOM Meeting

Webinar Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_W950jWT-QQ6Ct0NT9A-Tcw

Note: These are summary minutes; a tape recording of this meeting is on file in Wolcott Town Hall.

REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Dennis Cleary called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:33 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance and attendance was taken.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dennis Cleary, Patricia Najarian, Angela Sanna, Ryan Pawlak, Robert Ficeto, Kenneth Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nicole Smart

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Brian Tynan

MINUTES:

Upon **MOTION** made by Robert Ficeto, seconded by Kenneth Wilson, it was unanimously voted to accept the Minutes from the 3/18/2021 Regular Meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

Ryan Pawlak gave an update on his findings as it relates to the legalities of digital meetings. Currently there are no new updates to the CT General Statutes. Meetings continue to abide by current guidelines.

Angela Sanna provided information on Veteran affairs and benefits. Comparisons were made to other towns and similar demographics. Angela suggested a veterans committee since such a large portion of Wolcott's population are veterans. Possibly posting on the town website listing the resources available to veterans and their families for benefits, exemptions and contacts available to them. It was suggested that the language be similar to current groups of the same nature in the Charter. Hoping that the CRC can get some input from the community at the Public Hearing.

Attorney Tynan to draft a short description of what this Commission would do and what they would advocate for.

Angela Sanna, Ken Wilson, and Attorney Brian Tynan to work together to get the language and description developed.

Attorney Tynan to adjust the language on Town Council appointments in Section 907. This will more specifically identify who has the authority to appoint in certain scenarios.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Draft 4 of the Meeting, Public Hearing, and work schedule

CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON OUTSTANDING ITEMS FROM LAST MEETING:

Upon **MOTION** made by Kenneth Wilson, seconded by Robert Ficeto, it was unanimously voted to Amend Section 907 to re-date.

Robert Ficeto put forth his recommendation to have candidates be presented for review prior to be appointed for any Commission or Board. Duties and responsibilities need to be made clear so that these candidates can fulfill these obligations. He described recent issues with a Commission whereas said Commission could not meet due to the Chair not calling a meeting. This was during a time when they could have assisted and been of service to the public exponentially. Additional discussion on how this should be a fair and equitable pool of candidates put forth by all political parties. Perhaps add this verbiage in Section 402. Robert Ficeto, Patricia Najarian, and Attorney Tynan to put finalized language together for next meeting.

Robert Ficeto brought forth his next recommendation to have the mayor serve on the Board of Education as ex-officio to provide accurate and timely information as needed. Robert Ficeto gave a few examples where he felt this could have been helpful. Members discussed and noted how in many other towns the Mayors do serve on the Board of Education. Historically this has been tried but has not come to fruition in Wolcott. Several were not in favor so Robert Ficeto withdrew his request.

Upon **MOTION** made by Robert Ficeto, seconded by Kenneth Wilson, it was unanimously voted to remove the discussion item about adding the Mayor as ex-officio to the Board of Education.

Robert Ficeto's next suggestion was to have the Town and Board of Education work together to save money on common items. Patricia Najarian did explain that they currently work together. However, this does not work on all items as quantity can be quite different as usage does not serve each the same. Pat gave several examples where an agreement was made for services with the Town and it was withdrawn much to the frustration of the Board of Education. Robert Ficeto felt the language could be streamlined to assist. After additional discussion, comparing various examples, and not having full support, Robert Ficeto withdrew his suggestion.

Upon **MOTION** made by Robert Ficeto, seconded by Patricia Najarian, it was unanimously voted to remove the discussion item about common interest ordered items.

Robert Ficeto spoke on requiring the Board of Education to seek legal counsel utilizing the Town Attorney instead of outside counsel. Patricia Najarian gave some insight as to the narrative of when they seek council. Most of the time it is for specific issues such as the several Unions that are involved with the Board of Education that require specific expertise. Additional discussion ensued and more clarity was given. Dennis proposed that all legal notices or legal process for services regarding Labor, Insurance, Workers Comp. etc, be conveyed to the Town Attorney. He suggested the Town Attorney not be the gatekeeper, but provide resources useful to the Board of Education. Patricia Najarian, Robert Ficeto, and Attorney Tyan to be the body of a subcommittee to bring resolution, suggestions, and verbiage to the next meeting for review.

Robert Ficeto discussed his concerns on the updating and information on file in the Registrar's office. He feels that not all information is updated in a timely manner, not by fault of the current Registrar, but by the processes in place. Patricia Najarian explained at length the updating process. This process utilizes resources and abides by the laws of the Secretary of State and the Town of Wolcott. Her office updates on a monthly basis and is quite diligent in this process. Robert Ficeto thinks that there must be a remedy to make the Registrars job easier. Perhaps consider additional funding for the Registrars office for more resources. A letter should be sent along with the Charter to the Town Council for a strong recommendation.

Robert Ficeto's last item was a suggestion to eliminate districts for candidates. He feels that this would give us a better pool of candidates to choose from. After discussion on the current process which has been in place for many years, it was decided that this may not be in the best interest of the town. Robert Ficeto put forth his points to support this suggestion.

Upon **MOTION** made by Ryan Pawlak, seconded by Patricia Najarian, it was voted to remove the discussion item about out of district people running for Town Council. All were in favor with the exception of Robert Ficeto who stood opposed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Upon **MOTION** by Robert Ficeto, seconded by Ryan Pawlak, it was unanimously voted to **ADJOURN** the Regular Meeting at 9:29 p.m.

APPROVED:

DeAnna Morelli
Clerk
Charter Revision Commission

Dennis Cleary
Chairman
Charter Revision Commission