

**CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

Thursday, April 29, 2021

Immediately Following Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m.

Remote ZOOM Meeting

Webinar Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_W-mRUgQETcmTKA7WyQgTSA

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

REGULAR MEETING:

Chairman Dennis Cleary called the Public Hearing to order at 7:38 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance and attendance was taken.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dennis Cleary, Patricia Najarian, Angela Sanna, Robert Ficeto,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ryan Pawlak, Nicole Smart, Kenneth Wilson

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Brian Tynan

MINUTES:

Upon **MOTION** made by Robert Ficeto, seconded by Angela Sanna, it unanimously was voted to approve the minutes from the 4/15/2021 Regular Meeting.

DISCUSSION:

Dennis Cleary spoke on the public participation from the Public Hearing.

Patricia Najarian felt that the discussion on Section 309 (b) was worthy of looking into and amending. Dennis Cleary concurred with this and discussed that 7 members would put them above a super majority, and that it would represent the minority interest on the council. This would help ensure that the item at hand would proceed to referendum.

Upon **MOTION** made by Patricia Najarian, seconded by Angela Sanna, to change Section 309 (b) Power of Referendum, affirmative voting from at least eight members of the Council present and voting to seven members and open for discussion.

Robert Ficeto feels that it is already difficult to obtain people for commissions, and would like to see an easier path for this. He feels that we could go to 6 so that the process does not get held up. In addition, the political party who holds the majority should have the power to get items approved and out to the public. Dennis feels that if the number is reduced to 6, we would eliminate the minority and become a pure majority vote with no participation. Since every member served in the minority at some point, Dennis wants to protect the rights of the minority. Dennis feels that it stands more of a chance of being approved by the Council because it is an incremental change.

A roll call vote was taken and the MOTION carried as indicated below; 4 yes, 0 no.

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Dennis Cleary	X	
Patricia Najarian	X	
Angela Sanna	X	
Robert Ficeto	X	

Robert Ficeto feels that an increasing amount of people are unable to attend meetings, especially those who promote our youth in government. His thoughts are that those who are either absent or are away at school should be able to serve via Zoom. This would allow for more participation in meetings and would help to eliminate a lack of Quorum. Dennis feels that access by the public for participation could work also. Pat feels that Zoom has worked well over the course of previous months for participation and voting, so there is no reason why it couldn't work in these other scenarios. Additional discussion was had on this topic.

Upon **MOTION** made by Robert Ficeto, seconded by Angela Sanna, it was unanimously voted to table the discussion on remote voting for 10 minutes for further thought and consideration.

Dennis spoke on his thoughts regarding Section 415, Municipal Finance Officer. This process currently allows for an interim Municipal Finance Officer during a vacancy. There is no term or deadline that an interim Municipal Finance Officer can serve for. Additional discussion on this ended in an agreement on a maximum number on months.

Upon **MOTION** made by Patricia Najarian, seconded by Robert Ficeto, it was unanimously voted to add additional language to the end of Section 415 (a) "on an interim basis not to exceed 6 months".

A **MOTION** made by Patricia Najarian, seconded by Robert Ficeto to discuss wording for utilizing digital media.

There was additional lengthy discussion on how to properly structure electronic attendance. Robert Ficeto felt that this would be a good way to spend the Cares money. He feels that the attendees should be in their office when attending, and that this should help to minimize absences. The only exception would be the large and critical boards such as the Town Council and the Board of Education. Each Board can decide how they would want to proceed utilizing this option.

Upon **MOTION** made by Robert Ficeto, seconded by Patricia Najarian, to add the language “with the exception of the Town Council and Board of Education, all boards commissions and agencies shall meet live and with digital media access, for purposes of quorum, discussion, vote, and public participation”.

A roll call vote was taken and the MOTION carried as indicated below; 3 yes, 1 no.

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Dennis Cleary		X
Patricia Najarian	X	
Angela Sanna	X	
Robert Ficeto	X	


Upon **MOTION** made by Robert Ficeto, seconded by Patricia Najarian, it was unanimously voted to forward Draft 4 to the Town Council for their consideration.


Upon **MOTION** made by Robert Ficeto, seconded by Angela, to re-title Section 105, add sub-section (b), and clarify conduct of meetings with new language: “with the exception of the Town Council and Board of Education, all boards commissions and agencies shall meet live and with digital media access, for purposes of quorum, discussion, vote, and public participation”.

ADJOURNMENT:

Upon **MOTION** by Robert Ficeto, seconded by Angela Sanna, it was unanimously voted to **ADJOURN** the Regular Meeting at 8:47 p.m.

APPROVED:


DeAnna Morelli
Clerk
Charter Revision Commission


Dennis Cleary
Chairman
Charter Revision Commission