

## **Minutes of the Charter Revision Commission January 21, 2008**

**Present:** Chairman Ernie Petkovich, Eric Remington, Bobbie Kling, Thomas J. Sheridan, Jr., John P. Murphy, Elaine O'Brien. **Absent:** Douglas Viets and Rodney Dillman Mr. Petkovich called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Town Hall lower level conference room.

### **Citizen's Comment:**

None.

### **Minutes:**

Mr. Sheridan made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Kling to approve the Minutes of January 14, 2009. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

### **Old Business:**

Chairman Petkovich had received an answer from the Town Attorney regarding his question if the Town Attorney must do a legal review of the first Draft document before its given to the Board of Selectmen. Attorney McAnaney said this is not needed for the first Draft. Mr. Dillman is working on a first draft of everything the Commission has approved to date.

Chairman Petkovich said he wants the entire Commission to vote on the job description of the Town Administrator. The Town Attorney said that a vote via the telephone is okay as long as the member has participated in the discussions prior to the vote.

Chairman Petkovich also received an opinion that the first Draft document from the Commission does not need to be submitted by the end of January, but by the end of May.

### **Special Meeting:**

Mrs. Kling made a motion, seconded by Mr. Remington, to add a special meeting for February 5, 2009 at 7 p.m., town hall. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

### **Tracking Logs:**

Item #26 Sec. 603D: Mr. Remington made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Kling to move this to the Not Recommended List. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Item #42A Sec.804D Mr. Remington made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Kling to move to the not recommended list. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Item #42b Sec. 804(D) Mr. Remington made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Kling to add the word "Town" to Annual Budget and move this to the Technical Correction List. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Item #18 Sec.406 Ms. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Remington, to move this to the Not Recommended List. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Item #86 Sec. #1009A Standardization of call for a referendum, number of days. Elaine O'Brien will rewrite this section.

Item #61b Sec. 1009(C) Mr. Petkovich made a motion, seconded by Mr. Remington, to change 10% to "250", and move to the Recommended List. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Item #67 on the short list: Mr. Petkovich made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Kling to move to the Not Recommended List. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Item #68 Sec. 406 & 403 Mr. Petkovich made a motion, seconded by Ms. O'Brien to change "two" to "three" and move to the Technical correction list.

Item #77(H) Sec. 807 Ms. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sheridan to move this to the Not Recommended List. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Item #78 Sec. 1004 Mr. Petkovich made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Kling to move this to the Not Recommended List. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Item #81 Sec. 1009A Mr. Remington made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Kling to move this to the Not Recommended List. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Chairman Petkovich said there are still 9 items open, with 6 of them related to the T.A. position.

**Town Administrator Job Description Discussion:**

Tom Sheridan opened the discussion stating he felt that the Commission should first decide if we want a Town Administrator or not. He asked why we are attempting to draft a job description before the Commission decides if we even want to go that way. Mr. Sheridan said the First Selectman came to the Commission last meeting and felt Town government was running well. He did say, however, he would like to see a 4 year term for the Selectmen to help with the continuity issue. With professional staff on board which was not in place several years ago, he feels Suffield does have professionalism in our government.

Elaine O'Brien then submitted her draft of the job description. She felt the present job description describes a Town Manager and she is against that, so she describes the position more as an Assistant to the First Selectman, with the power lying with the First Selectman. Chairman Petkovich said her description removes all power to the Town Administrator and was not in favor of her changes.

Eric Remington agreed, but felt the Commission should focus on the job description, then vote the position, and either accept it, or reject it. Mr. Murphy said we agreed to come up with a job description first and then discuss if we want the position.

Tom Sheridan said he still wants to know what is not working with the present form of government. He is not ready to turn over the control of the Town to a Town Administrator. He feels if we go to a 4 year term and offer a good salary, we will attract better qualified individuals who run for the First Selectman's position.

Elaine O'Brien and Bobbie Kling stated they were against the draft. Tom Sheridan feels we don't need a T.A. position which will only create another level of bureaucracy.

Ernie Petkovich, Rod Dillman and Doug Viets are in favor of the description.

**Adjournment:**

Mr. Petkovich made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Murphy and passed by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Koren, Recording Secretary

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, February 5, 2009 at 7 p.m., Town Hall , lower level**