

**Charter Commission
Minutes of October 27, 2005 Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Marie Eldridge at 7:15 p.m. in Room 210 at Hopkinton Town Hall. Also present were Mary Pratt, Beth Herlihy, Bill McRobert Nancy Clark, Doris Carver and Bruce Karlin.

Nancy reported on a few items that she followed-up on:

Section 3-1 (b) - Substitute the wording from bylaw chapter 47-2. Also delete all wording after the comma (“provided that no date....”)

Section 3-1 (e) 2 - Both Lynn Fornier and Ann Click stated that they are not aware of any will or trust that designates how to fill vacancies on boards. Delete the underlined sentence in this section.

Section 3-4 (c) Commission agreed to retain the current process for appointments to the Appropriations Committee and to use the wording from bylaw 5-1 for this section.

7:30 p.m. Tom Irvin and Gary Daugherty enter the meeting.

Section 3-8 (a) Marie spoke with Ted Kozak and he stated that in his opinion, the Town Manager should be the person appointing members of the financial team, including the Principal Assessor. A lengthy discussion then ensued regarding who should have the appointment authority for the Principal Assessor. Gary then motioned that we reconsider having the Board of Assessors appoint the Principal Assessor. The motion was seconded by Tom and passed unanimously. Bruce made a motion to have the Town Manager appoint the Principal Assessor with the Board of Assessors approving the appointment. Nancy seconded the motion. Bruce, Tom and Nancy voted in favor of the motion. The remainder of the commission voted against the motion. The motion failed. Bruce then made a motion to have the Town Manager appoint the Principal Assessor. Bill seconded the motion. A discussion ensued regarding who should approve this appointment and the consensus was that this appointment would be the same as others made by the Town Manager and therefore would be approved by the Board of Selectmen. Bill and Mary voted against this motion with the remainder of the commission voting in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Section 5-1 (b) Discussion ensued regarding whether or not Town Meeting should approve any reorganization plan proposed by the Town Manager. Commission agreed to leave the current wording in the charter as is and therefore reorganization plans proposed by the Town Manager do not require Town Meeting approval.

Section 5-2 Change “Code” to “Order.”

Section 5-4 (c) Bruce made a motion to re-write this section to read “The Finance Director will serve as the Town Accountant.” Mary seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Section 5-4 (d) Bruce made a motion to change the wording in section 5-4 (d) 1 to end after the word year. Tom seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Section 5-4 (d) 6 Bruce made a motion to delete section 5-4 (d) 6. Gary seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Section 5-4 a-d Marie volunteered to re-write this entire section. She will use the Bellingham Charter – Section 2 as the model for this section.

Section 6-2 (a) Leave as is.

Section 6-2 (b) Marie stated that Ted Kozak suggested that we change the number of days from 14 to 30 days. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the time frame of the budget process. The group agreed that it would consider changing the date for preliminary budget submissions to February 1st. Marie agreed to first discuss this change with Ted Kozak. Bruce agreed to contact Stuart Cowart, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee and Tom agreed to contact Geoff MacDonald at the Superintendents Office for their feedback as well.

Review of the charter stopped at section 6-4.

Next meeting was set for Wednesday, November 2nd in the first-floor conference room at the Fire Station. Also everyone should check their calendars to see if they can meet on Saturday November 5th.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.