

**CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2020  
7:00 P.M. – TOWN HALL  
PUBLIC HEARING & MEETING MINUTES**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Eleanor Georges, John Tooney, Jay Brudz, Jim Aldridge, Gwen Marrion, Adam Teller, Rich Hayes

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Welcome and Introduction of members at 7:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON POTENTIAL REVISIONS TO THE BOLTON TOWN CHARTER:**

**Gwen Marrion:** Charter is community based. Looking forward to your input. We all take our responsibilities very seriously. Though you will be able to speak. Please get a hold of us when you need help. We will have another public hearing that you will be able to comment on. After the hearing we will have a committee meeting, you are welcome to stay. We would be glad to send out the list

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Brad** stated that he would like to see two line items on the ballot instead of one when the vote comes to the public vote

**William Anderson, 77 French Road** stated, 1-12 I'm fully supportive. We are giving up a 3rd of item 2. Review possible, edit of selected position, I'm in favor. Would like to see a pro-business unit, most towns have a planning & zoning, and not separate. Members serve/appointed no more than four years. If we can remove as much politics as possible, would rather see people appointed by skill-set, not popularity. Agree with Bill's general comments to keep a system of checks and balances. Efficiency and not loose FOI so we know how our goals are working. Strong customer service and ethics. Hope to see this in the final package. Furthermore, look at KAPPA to provide KAPPA Committee on anonymous vote. Mechanism to allow various/10.2 in consider limiting town office. Take a look 11.1 and examine whether Connecticut State Statutes election can only be held chapter 170 section. Appreciate hearing from the commission whether to shift. Charter does not address how the town clerk is elected.

**Barbara Amodio**, stated she would like to see non- citizens serve on the committees

**Christina** stated she would like a twice per year Property Tax bill

**Christopher Davey, 21 Mount Sumner Drive** stated comments 1-13 (attached)

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS:**

**Marrion:** We will close the Public Hearing at 7:22 p.m.

Josh has lined up an extra meeting with two guest speakers. One is the 1<sup>st</sup>selectman of Colombia. As we get comments, the list will be upgraded. We should look at section 5d, Look at administrative office. 10.d, look at Ethics committee policy language. 9.9 procedure of town meetings. Request made

at the last charter meeting for paper ballots. We are looking at this with fresh eyes. It is very hard for people to vote on this issue. Section 7.4, adding. Section 2.5d, looking at vacancies.

**Brudz:** what form of government do we enjoy here in Bolton? What pressing need do we need to change the status quo. Other towns reported forms of government and how they report it. Discussion is not so much with the form of charter. It takes four votes, getting 4 out of 5 votes is virtually impossible. If you have a charter that a particular job should be filled for 5 years, if no contract. If there's contract and contract expires, if they don't have a set term of years. In the way it describe the job, how do you delegate the task? I think that we've come to the point to where a town of this size need someone. If it's a Town Manager, as long as the person is capable and removable when they don't do the job. Anyone on the charter can work

**Hayes:** reality is the minute you introduce the election it makes it more challenging. Town Manager in Town of Newington was removed by a vote of 3-4. We can look at adopting those rules. Board of Selection should hire board officers. Power and duties can be describes in the person's contract

**Marrion:** Board of Selectman should hire Board Officers. Powers and duties can be described in the person's contract

**Hayes:** Who is the town of selectman accountable to?

**Marrion:** no matter what you put in the charter, if you are not going hold people accountable, then it will not work

**Hayes:** what do you think about just paying the selectman a reasonable amount of money? Just try to find people who care about the town. Looking for people to be administrators. In terms of having these discussions (Bob Moura and Sandy). The big picture in government is, we have an enormous challenge in getting people to run for government. Other big picture, talks about eliminating the board of finance. We were trying to integrate into a working system with plain language. Income statement and balance sheet, a big changes in the budget. Need for plain language. Next big point is, divide and make smaller topics. Concentrate on the big topics first. Consider how we would allocate our time

**Marrion:** We can make subcommittees

**Brudz:** Whether a CEO, if elected, or appointed. Study at Sacred Heart showed a town's bond rating correlated how to elect a town manager

**Marrion:** What would be role of a Town Manager be, if we had a Selectman?

**Hayes:** How would we approach the Selectman if we took a vote? Looked at other towns with 5k-10K people

**Marrion:** What are the benefits of the Town Manager (list presented)? Is the list describing what we can have with a 1st Selection and a Town Manager?

**Brudz:** We already have a Town Manager. With a couple tweaks, we could have the benefits of a town manager like system. The thing that we will miss in this town is the long range. Brainstorm ways looking into parceling on-going. As it evolve, things change. Do you run the 1st Selectman for 4 years? Board of

Selectman goes out every 2 years. Would there be a portion that can go into executive session?  
Interested in the ways, open question.

**Tooney:** We should be able to afford the other groups. We need to re-invite all of our other groups. The Fire Department, etc. What are the roles of Fire Commissioner and Police Commissioner? Their roles are set out in the charter

**Marrion:** We will be considering the roles of the commissions. Under consideration on eliminating the Board of Finance, getting their input. Also, Board of Education. Area that's beneficial for consideration to see if they have concerns about the charter. One of us would attend

**Hayes:** Assuming the Board of Finance is limited, we have to start looking at shared services. Is set by charter? You may not be able to report that position from them. 3-4 years ago, we were replacing the Finance Officer. 3.1 Section is very limited. Three very short sections. Over 20 years, there was a formal agreement to merge the two areas. Follow-up with some research re: the PROS and CONS vs. having a Selectman or Town Manager

#### **CONTINUING BUSINESS - REVIEW OF THE TOWN CHARTER:**

- a. Sub-Committees, Government, is a good idea. Getting together outside of regular meetings
- b. 14 items already divided up, there's another 9
- c. Section 5d, do away with, put under sub-committee 2
- d. Section 10.3 conflicts of interest, under structural procedures
- e. Not a charter issue. Will explain to that citizen, scope of services. Boundaries are not well marked, procedural issue
- f. 11.1a having to elect the Chairman of the Board. A 45-day requirement. Would have to call a special meeting, something we should address (procedural question) Moving 11 to procedural
- g. 9.9 having paper ballots. Move to procedural. Conduct of meeting, compliance with FOI. Maybe can phone into the meeting
- h. 7.4 adding new boards (procedural)
- i. 2.5d Vacancies
- j. Request tax payments be made in two installments. Under Finance?
  - Is it wise to bake that into a Charter?
  - Does Charter take precedence over ordinance
  - Are we in accordance with the State Statutes?
    - We will find out and bring it back to the board
- k. Provision re: non us citizens serving on boards; very active resident in town who does a lot of good work but she's not a citizen/personal situation/eligibility for elected office/if you own property in Bolton/does not live here can vote on
- l. Structural procedures split-up

#### **OTHER:**

Divide into sub-committees for the two guest

- Send your questions to Gwen Marrion (ask Josh to look into it)

#### **SET FUTURE MEETING DATES:**

- February 20, 2020
- March 12, 2020

- April 16, 2020
- May 21, 2020
- June 11, 2020
- July 16, 2020
- August 20, 2020
- September 10, 2020
- October 8, 2020
- November 12, 2020
- December 10, 2020
- January 14, 2021

**ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.