

MINUTES
Charter Revision Commission
Public Hearing
Tuesday, October 18, 2010 @ 7:30PM
Norma Drummer Room/Seymour Town Hall

Members present: Chairman Trisha Danka, Al Ermer, Al Bruno, Gary Biesadecki, and Irene Jecusco.

Not present: Robin Andrews and Navnit Mitter (7:46PM).

Others present: First Selectman Paul Roy, Special Counsel Steve Kulas, Finance Director Doug Thomas, Frank Loda, Kristen Harmeling, and John Stelma.

ITEM # 1 – Open Public Hearing.

Chairman Trisha Danka opened the Public Hearing at 7:35PM.

ITEM # 2 – Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone salutes the Flag and states the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM # 3 – Public Comments and Discussion on the revision of Chapters 12 & 13 in the Town Charter.

Kristen Harmeling, 27 Patrick Drive: Thanks all of the members of the Charter Revision Commission for volunteering. She states that she has a few sections of chapter 12 that she would like see changed.

Section 12.2 General Powers and Duties.

- **Section 12.2(a) to reflect what really happens. The Board of Finance does not “prepare” the budgets; the Department Heads and the Finance Director prepare the budgets.**
- **Section 12.2(c) would like to see a change in responsibility on this item. Feels that it is a lot to ask the Board of Finance to “develop” a long range plan for the Town and feels that the Finance Director and the First Selectman should have that responsibility. She states that the language should possibly read, “Direction, feedback, and thoughts on the long range plan.**

Section 12.3 Annual Town Meeting.

This section gave the Board of Finance the most struggle during the budget process.

- **Page CHT:24, 3rd paragraph, 4th sentence, which reads, “If a Town Meeting or referendum vote does not approve the revenues, debt service and all legal obligations on or before June 15, only those aforesaid items last submitted by the Board of Finance will be considered to be adopted as part of the new budget effective on July 1st.”. This sentence does not make sense to the Board and there was a lot of confusion as to whether Town Meeting “or” referendum vote should be there, which one? Also, there should be clearer definitions on the procedures to follow if the budget doesn’t pass by June 15th. She would also like to see the “legal obligations” defined clearer.**

Frank Loda, 27 Osprey Drive: Would like to make sure a message is sent to the voters that since this is a special referendum they will need a high percentage, 10 or 15% turnout, for any changes to be accepted. Would like the news media to be used to help spread the word about the vote.

Doug Thomas, 33 Hickory Lane: Would like to add "Intra Department and Inter Department Transfers" to page 23, section in second column that starts with "The printed budget".

ITEM # 4 - Close Public Hearing.

Motion to close public hearing at 7:44PM.

Motion: Al Ermer

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 5-Yes

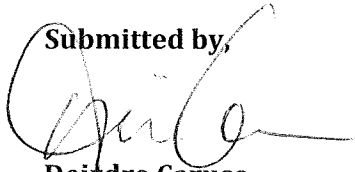
0-No

0-Abstain

0-Disqualify

(NOTE: Next meeting to be held on Monday, November 1, 2010 at 7:30PM in the Norma Drummer Room/Seymour Town Hall.)

Submitted by,



**Deirdre Caruso,
Recording Secretary**