

August 3, 2006

Seymour Board of Selectmen
1 First Street
Seymour, Ct 06483

Dear Honorable Board Members,

Please be advised that the Charter Revision Commission submits the following draft report as per your charge and the Statutes of the State of Connecticut.

The Commission recommends the following changes:

- 1) Section 12.3(b) – that the date of February 15th in lines 5-6 be changed to February 1st to conform to the February 1st date set fourth in Section 12.3(a), paragraph 3, line 3.
- 2) The period at fourteen (14) days specified in Section 12.3(c), paragraph 1, line 6 and paragraph 3, line 4 be changed to 18 days in order to give more flexibility for legal notices to be published in newspapers.
- 3) The Commission feels that the Town budget format as to the option of voting yes, no-too low, or no-too high on both parts of the split vote be retained without change. The Commission feels that the budget process worked well in its first year. The Commission feels that there was no real confusion about the process and that the process provided a mandated rather than advisory direction to the Board of Finance. The Commission feels that any change to an advisory vote would lack mandated authority and could actually be in conflict with a positive referendum vote as was recently demonstrated in a neighboring community.
- 4) The Commission recommends the following section be added to Section 12.3 of the Charter.

During the budget referendum process the First Selectman, the Finance Director, and Assistant Finance Director shall monitor the budget to determine the minimum budget amount needed to meet all Legal Obligations of the Town. No budget shall be proposed or voted upon, which shall contain an amount lower than the aforesaid minimum budget amount.

If a budget containing such minimum amount shall have been rejected at referendum, the First Selectman after consultation with the Finance Director and the Assistant Finance Director to confirm said fact shall declare that budget to have been adopted by reason of law. The First Selectman shall file said declaration with the Town Clerk. The filing of such declaration shall close the budget process and procedures for collection shall commence immediately.

The Commission recommends this change in order to prevent a never ending referendum process during which the proposed budget would be allowed to drop below a level at which the Town could meet all of its mandated legal expenses. If this were allowed to occur the Town would be reduced to deficit financing and would be forced to bond to meet its legal expenses, which procedure is not recommended by the State of Connecticut and which procedure is not a normally accepted way to govern a municipality. The Commission feels this addition is

absolutely necessary in order to protect the Town's financial reputation and its bond rating.

5) The Commission recommends the following addition to Section 8A.1 paragraph 6.

If the total number of police personnel from the Seymour Police Department who have applied for the position of Lieutenant and who have satisfied all of the above requirements shall total three (3) or more the Commission may not solicit applications from Police Departments other than Seymour.

If however, the total number of said applications from the Seymour Police Department is less than three (3) then the Commission may solicit applications from Police Departments other than Seymour.

The purpose of this change is to grant a preference to qualified Seymour Police Applicants while at the same time providing an additional source of personnel in case officers within the Seymour Police Department shall have failed to satisfy all requirements including educational requirements. The Commission also hopes that this change will provide an additional incentive for Seymour Police personnel to satisfy all of the necessary requirements prior to the time when a vacancy shall occur as to the position of Lieutenant.

The Commission also recommended the following change. Replace the paragraph in Section 8.A.1 beginning with "As to appointments to the position of Lieutenant...." With the following:

The Board of Police Commissioners shall fill the position of Lieutenant from the most qualified personnel holding the rank of Sergeant or Detective Sergeant. Personnel from the Seymour Police Department and from police departments other than Seymour shall be eligible for appointment to the position of Lieutenant if they satisfy the requirements imposed by this section. Before assuming the office of Lieutenant, a potential appointee shall be subject to oral testing and evaluation by a competent, independent, outside authority appointed by the Board of Police Commissioners, pass a medical examination, and hold an Associates degree or higher in Police Science and have ten (10) years experience as a full time police officer and five (5) years experience in the rank of Sergeant or equivalent or higher. The outside authority shall submit names of the top three (3) candidates to the Board of Police Commissioners who shall fill said position by appointment of the individual they deem most qualified.

All Police personnel having more than five (5) years service as a full time Police Officer, having an Associates Degree in Police Science or higher or actively pursuing such a degree with a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of acceptable credits toward an Associates Degree will be eligible to take promotional examinations for higher rank.

Very truly yours,

Richard Lazarski, Chairman
Seymour Charter Revision Commission