



TOWN OF KILLINGLY

TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE

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TOWN OF KILLINGLY CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

Special Meeting
Wednesday, March 6, 2019
6:30 p.m.
Town Meeting Room
172 Main Street
Killingly, CT

Commission Members:

Donald Aubrey	Elizabeth Hayden
Teresa Barton	Dan Rovero
Jonathan Blake	Keith Thurlow
Benjamin Chase	

MINUTES

1. Call to Order by Acting Chair, Teresa Barton at 6:32 p.m.
2. Roll Call: D. Aubrey; B. Chase; D. Rovero; T. Barton.
E. Hayden and J. Blake were absent with notice. K. Thurlow was absent.

Also Present: Paul Hopkins, Acting Town Manager; Kevin Kerttula, Town Council Liaison.

3. Citizen Participation – None.
4. Adoption of Minutes: January 16, 2019

Ms. Barton stated that she was not present at the January 16, 2019 meeting, but that she had read the minutes.

Motion was made by D. Rovero to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 16, 2019, as presented. Second by B. Chase. Motion carried unanimously (4-0-0).

5. New Business:
 - a) Discussion of Chapter 9 through 12

Since only three Commission Members were present, it was decided that only Chapter 9 would be reviewed this evening.

Ms. Barton brought up discussion from the February 20, 2019 meeting that had been tabled regarding Section 802 about whether someone should be allowed to serve on more than one Board or Commission at the same time. She suggested changing it to be at the discretion of the Town Council. Mr. Hopkins explained that Town Manager, Mary Calorio was going to investigate what legal ramifications are impactful and this information may be ready for review at the next meeting.

CHAPTER 9

Sections 903-907 Discussion:

Mr. Aubrey brought up discussion regarding the Director of Public Works position and he stated that, even if the position is not filled, he feels that it is a mistake to take it out. There was discussion regarding that Ms. Calorio just wants to find the best-qualified candidate without the requirement for being an engineer. Mr. Hopkins mentioned that Keith Thurlow was also in favor of keeping it in.

There was discussion regarding the length of time that the Town Attorney is appointed for (two years). Mr. Hopkins explained that Murtha Cullina was appointed for one year on a trial-run basis. They just finished their first year under budget and they were appointed for one more year (same structure).

There was discussion regarding the Council being able to create, by ordinance, a police department or fire department. There was discussion regarding fire departments/equipment in Town and whether a Town-wide fire department would be better.

Mr. Rovero brought up discussion regarding the Town Manager position which has all the power. Mr. Hopkins stated that there was previous discussion regarding condensing all of the positions into a list (Public Works, Tax Collector, Assessor, Town Clerk, Director of Finance all lumped into one) summarizing with the following language: "The Manager shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the Council, and may remove in accordance with Section 603 of this Charter, each of whom will serve an indefinite term. Such offices shall have all powers and duties not inconsistent with this Charter, conferred or opposed by General Statute on such offices and shall have the powers and duties as may be prescribed by Council." He explained that the Director of Health is an appointee of the Department of Health (so Killingly does not have a Director of Health) and the Director of Civil Preparedness is the Town Manger. Discussion continued.

Mr. Hopkins suggested leaving Section 907 (Director of Health) out of the above because the Town does appoint someone else to do it unlike the other positions. He suggested the following language for Sections 903 through 906:

"The Town Manager shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the Council, and may remove, with the advice and consent of the Council, in accordance with Provision 603 of this Charter, (list each position) each of whom shall serve for an indefinite term. Such offices shall have the powers and duties not inconsistent with this Charter, conferred or opposed by General Statute.

There was discussion. The Health Department has been appointed and the Fire Marshal has been appointed as the Director of Civil Preparedness.

Section 911 Discussion:

There was discussion regarding positions that require surety bonding. There was discussion regarding whether the positions in the Town Clerk's office should be bonded. Mr. Hopkins will investigate.

Section 912 – No Discussion.

No changes.

CHAPTER 10

It was decided to hold off discussion on this Chapter until more Commission Members are present.

There was discussion regarding Carrie Olsen's review of the Commission's recommended modifications to the Charter. Mr. Hopkins explained that once the Commission finishes reviewing all of the Chapters, she will attend a meeting (maybe next month) to discuss the language. Then the ballot questions (currently six) can be discussed. Mr. Hopkins suggested that, once the questions are set, the Commission focus on writing summaries/explanations (in very straightforward language) on its thoughts behind the modifications and get it out to the public. Mr. Rovero suggested WINY Radio. There was discussion regarding the website and You-Tube.

CHAPTER 11

Section 1102 Discussion:

Mr. Hopkins explained that the Council has the right to create and appoint except for the position listed. This is addressed in Sections 800 and 900. Mr. Hopkins was asked to consult with the Town Attorney as to whether this Section is needed. Mr. Hopkins read the section and explained that this Section delineates who does what and that the Town will have a personnel policy and what the personnel policy will dictate. The Town Manager will create personnel policies which are approved by the Council and filed with the Town Clerk. He suggested that, if the Section is kept, language should be added regarding collective bargaining. There was agreement that the language is confusing.

There was discussion regarding retirement. Mr. Hopkins stated that the Town has two: a pension for long-time existing employees; and a deferred compensation package for new employees. He read current language in the section regarding who will manage the funds. Discussion continued and Mr. Hopkins explained that the Council only acts on the Town employees not on anything for the Board of Education unless it has General Fund implications. There was discussion regarding the State's underfunding of the teachers' pensions.

CHAPTER 12

Section 1203

Mr. Hopkins suggested that discussion on this Section wait until the Town Attorney is present so that she will be able to answer questions.

Section 1208

There was discussion regarding possibly changing the number of years for mandatory Charter revision. There was a suggestion for every ten years. It was decided to continue discussion when more Commission Members are present.

- b) Discussion in regards to a schedule for the next meeting

Mr. Hopkins will prepare a summary of changes to Chapter 9 and Section 1208 to be voted on. Then the Commission can move on to discussion regarding Chapter 10.

A review of the meeting schedule will be on the next agenda.

- 6. Other – None.

7. Adjournment

Motion was made by D. Rovero to adjourn at 7:32 p.m. Second by B. Chase. Motion carried unanimously (4-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

J.S. Perreault
Recording Secretary