

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER

Charter Review Committee

Dennis C. Gallagher, Chair

Carlton Hunt
Stephanie Ryan
Erick Lynch
Aisha Losche
Eric Desrochers



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Bridgewater, MA 02324

Bridgewater Charter Review Committee

Minutes for the Charter Review Meeting that Convened on Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Meeting called to order as formal session by Dennis C. Gallagher (Chairman of the Committee) in accordance with rules governing meetings and quorum filled. Meeting starts at 7:15 PM.

Members in Attendance: *Dennis C. Gallagher, Carlton Hunt, Aisha Losche, Stephanie Ryan, and Erick Lynch*

Members Not in Attendance: *Eric Desrochers; recording Secretary, Patti Paccia, was unable to attend due to prior commitments. Minutes were compiled by Carlton Hunt and Dennis Gallagher.*

Approval of Agenda: *The Committee accepts the agenda of the current meeting.*

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Minutes of the 12/17/14 meeting were distributed by Chair Gallagher. The Committee defers approval of the minutes until the next meeting.

Public Comments: *There are no public comments for the current meeting.*

Committee Meeting Schedule: *The Chair and Committee discuss their upcoming schedule of meetings and potential for topics of conversation in those meetings. The Committee considers the following:*

March 11, 2015

April 7, 2015 Town Council Presentation confirmed

Old Business:

The Committee continues reviewing selected suggested Charter revisions from the Town Manager's.

Section 6-4 (a) Supplemental Appropriations – Town Manager suggests striking the section; the committee remained unsure as to reason as to precedence and legal authority to do a supplemental budget before the final accounting is certified; consensus remained to leave section as is and ask why Town Manager was looking to strike.

Section 6-4 (b) Emergency Appropriations – Initial consensus was that it shouldn't be removed, but perhaps reworked. Committee discussion did not resolve. Chair to research MGL and report findings to the committee.

Section 6-4 (c) Reduction of Appropriations – no change to section unless (a) is stricken, then this would be moved to (b)

New Business

Section 2-7 (a) – Charter requirement for a 30 day delay before on any measure except those specifically listed in ... are official. Discussion centers on orders and resolution. Pros and cos were considered. Motion by Hunt, seconded by Lynch

to shorten the 30 day waiting period to 0 days for orders and resolutions was made but with drawn over concerns the public would not have sufficient time to react. New Motion to shorten the 30 day waiting period to 10 days for orders and resolutions was offered by Lynch, seconded by Losche passes with 4 yea and 1 nay.

Section 4-2 #11 and # 15. Contracts that need TC approval. Committee is concerned about implications of inclusion of specific contract language in these given Town Council Chair's concern on clarity of the TC in contract approval. Possible clarifications were offered. Eric volunteered to provide draft language to move the discussion forward.

Section 4-2 support services from Town Manager to Town Council; Committee consensus was to make no recommendation.

Section 4-3. General motion to add commissions to all series that include board, committee, agencies or board. Motion by Hunt, seconded by Lynch: passed 5 yea to 0 nay

Section 4- 4 Acting Town Manager appointment duration - Motion by Lynch, seconded by Hunt to affirm first vote. Passed unanimously

Section 4-4 Power of suspension – By committee consensus no recommendation offered

Section 4-7 Temporary Absence - No changes offered

Section 4-8. Removal of Town Manager – no changes offered

Section 5-4. Considerations of adding an assistant town manager to charter were not further pursued by consensus

Section 7-3 Signature requirements for elective office - Motion by Hunt, seconded by Lynch to affirm first vote. Passed unanimously

Section 8-3 and 8-7 Initiative petition process consistency with section 5. – Consensus to not affirm first vote. No changes recommended.

Consensus decision to not further consider adding clarifying language for board of health to the charter.

Section 6-2 Submission of budget; budget message – Motion to reaffirm 2/15/15 vote to add a call out in the Committee report suggesting that 6-2 (a) be moved to the admin code was offered by Hunt, seconded by Lynch, passed unanimously

Sections 6-3 (b) Budget to actual assessments. Motion to reaffirm 2/15/15 vote to add MGL citation offered by Loche, seconded by Hunt, passed unanimously.

With formal discussion concluded, a request is made to adjourn: By unanimous consensus of the Committee, the meeting is hereby adjourned. The next meeting will be March 11, 2015.

Meeting is hereby adjourned by unanimous consensus of the members in attendance in accordance with rules governing meetings. Meeting adjourns at 9:10 PM.

I hereby affix my hand to this document that the minutes of this meeting are true and accurate to the best of my ability, note-taking, and penmanship as so ordered by the Chair of the Committee this Fourth Day of March, Two Thousand and Fifteen.

A True Copy Attest,



Dennis C. Gallagher, Chairman of the Committee



Patti Paccia, Secretary of the Committee