



Attorneys at Law

MEMORANDUM

To: Charter Revision Commission
From: Nicholas W. Vitti Jr., Esq.
Date: January 17, 2014
Re: Summary of Charter Changes

Summary of Charter Changes after Charter Revision Commission Meeting 1/16/14:

- I. Five (5) member BOS with four (4) year terms (Tracking Sheet –Item No. 1 & 2):
 - a. C2-2 –Election of town officers at regular town elections every two or four years (depending upon term);
 - b. C3-4(A) –Five member Board, elected for a term of four (4) years at regular town election;
 - c. C3-4(B) –Selectmen receiving the next four highest number of votes (including the unsuccessful candidate(s) for First Selectman;
 - d. C4-1(A) – Composition of BOS -5 member, 4 Selectmen, 1 First Selectman;
 - e. C4-2(A) –BOS meetings set annually
 - f. C4-2(B) – Special meeting called by any 3 Selectmen; Quorum = 3 Selectmen;
 - g. C4-4(F) – Affirmative vote of 3 Selectmen to correct ordinances;
 - h. C5-4(A) –At first meeting of newly elected BOS, elect Acting Selectman (deletes biennial election); and
 - i. C7-4 –Appointment by affirmative vote of 3 Selectmen.

- II. Annual Town Budget Meeting (Item No. 4):
 - a. C6-3(A)(1) –Town Budget Meeting to be held in first seven days of April instead of May.

- III. Increasing thresholds requiring Town Meeting (Item No. 6):
 - a. C6-4(A) –Issuance of bonds in excess of one year –threshold changed to \$50,000.00; and
 - b. C6-4(B) –Additional appropriations –threshold changed to \$50,000.00; and

- c. C6-4(D) –Acceptance of a grant –threshold changed to \$50,000.00.
- IV. Town Meeting for Sale, Purchase, or Other Disposition of Real Estate (Item No. 7):
 - a. C6-4(C) –Added “other disposition of Real Estate” to cover demolition.
- V. Cleanup of language; delete “full-time” from all position descriptions (Item No. 9):
 - a. C8-4 –deletes “full time” language from Assessor position (only position that has the “full time” language).
- VI. Advertised Bidding Threshold (Item No. 10)
 - a. C8-13(C)(4)(i) –Advertised bid threshold changed to \$50,000.
- VII. Fire Departments (Item No. 11) (New ¶):
 - a. C8-14 –Recognized volunteer departments; act pursuant to CGS; and chiefs report to First Selectman.
- VIII. Finance and Taxation (Item No. 12):
 - a. C10-2(D) –BOF able to increase or decrease department budgets as a whole during budget preparation process (no individual line item reductions, but BOF to retain line item authority over personnel expenditures).
- IX. Special Appropriations & Transfer of Appropriations (Item No. 13):
 - a. C10-4(B) –Special appropriations from any town agency surplus or contingency fund to another town agency not to exceed \$50,000 –raised threshold from \$25,000.
- X. Budget Neutral Transfers (Item No. 14) (New ¶):
 - a. C10-4(C) –BOS may make budget neutral transfers within an individual department operating budget except for increasing employees or encumbering future budgets.
- XI. Meetings (Item No. 17) (New ¶):
 - a. C11-11 –Meetings take place Municipal Center, School Facilities or Library.
- XII. Public Utilities Commission (Item No. 18):
 - a. C7-11(A through F) –Public Utilities Commission to be five appointed members with four year terms (staggered). The powers and duties of the PUC are proscribed.
- XIII. Salaries:
 - a. C10-9 – Board of Finance to set salaries of officials prior to election and annually thereafter.

XIV. Cleanup of language:

- a. C8-13(C)(4)(ii) – “Controller” should be “Comptroller”.