



Keith Chapman
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

200 Garfield Street
Newington, Connecticut 06111

Office of the Town Council

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John O. Murphy
Town Clerk

2022 Charter Revision Commission Special Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

This meeting was presented as a Zoom Webinar/Hybrid Meeting.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chairman Harpie called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Joe Harpie

Nancy Cappello

Chris Miner (*via zoom*)

Kevin Borrup

Also in attendance:

Beth DelBuono, Mayor

Keith Chapman, Town Manager (*via zoom*)

Dr. Maureen Brummett, Superintendent of Schools

Ben Ancona, Town Attorney (*via zoom*)

Janet Murphy, Finance Director (*via zoom*)

James Krupienski, Town Clerk

Susan Gibbon, Recording Clerk (*via zoom*)

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Participation on Agenda Items (**Via Zoom Application or Phone**)

(2 Minute Time Limit per Speaker) (888) 788-0099 or (877) 853-5247

- John Bachand, 56 Maple Hill Avenue. Regarding C-410, Right of Referendum on Ordinances. Convinced it should read, the exception should read the exception should be for 375 or less because you have these levels of spending and specials appropriations. Between 375 and 975 you have semi discretionary for council. The council can spend up to 375 with no delay or passage or anything and 975 automatically goes to referendum. It's the little area in between. Other people don't agree with my interpretation, but I think we need to determine what the intent is. The way I read it is they can't borrow over 375 without a referendum. I provided Wethersfield's language where they use the word "less". Maybe we can look at other towns that might help to guide us.
- Chairman Harpie stated that Ms. Murphy is here tonight, we can discuss that, with her.
- Mr. Bachand stated he had a question regarding the Emergency Ordinance. I think it's confusing. It seems if it's an emergency the council can discuss it, vote on it and pass it in one session. Some things conflict with that. Sounds like to me that it can't be discussed at the meeting that it's raised, it has to go to another meeting. It doesn't have to be public noticed or have a waiting period, but it can't be discussed. Have no opinion, but suspect you

would want the latitude to vote on it at the same time. Also there is no limit on emergencies, but see other towns have a limit on what emergency spending can be.

4. Comments by Commissioners

- None

5. Approval of Minutes

a. March 15, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Borrup to approve March 15, 2022 minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Cappello. Minutes approved.

6. Discussion of Items Charged for Review by the Town Council

a. Discussion of Charge #5 -IX Personnel with Town Manager & Superintendent of Schools

- Attorney Ancona stated that there is some confusion regarding the authority regarding classified within the board of education that are under the purview of the town manager. I asked James to provide you with an opinion letter I provided in April 2020. It does explain a fair amount of what is happening and it does the Charter provision. Under article nine of our Charter we have § C-901 Merit System, §-C 902 Classified and § C-903 Personnel Manager. Under Classified there are all these employees under the purview of the town manager, except the certified employees of the board of education, with a crossover of town personnel and board of ed personnel. There's been a question of where do these people belong? With the town manager or the superintendent. I think the charge by the council to you is to make that decision, or not, or to at least clean it up. Legally these employees are under the purview of the town manager at this moment.
- Chairman Harpie stated that we received information that the CT State Labor Relations back in 1994, initiated in 1992. Article 9 of the Charter clearly place non- certified employees of the board of education in the classified service of the town. Section 902 sets forth the role of the town in creating and maintaining the classified service system. It states that the town council or personnel director are to create job description for each position under the classified service. Is this the part that people are confused about?
- Attorney Ancona stated he doesn't think anyone is confused. The question is are we going to leave that or make a change, is there a desired change? To me it's clear, non-certified employees are under the town manager.
- Chairman Harpie asked if it was still the same group of individuals.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that he was involved in the state labor decision back in 1994. It was clear to me that only certified employees that are not under the purview of the town council and town manager were the teachers. The only way other employees could get certified would be to go through a process with the town manager and the town human resources director. To have certifications included in job descriptions was never done. However, the board of ed, on their own, without consultation or authority from the town, prepared their own job descriptions and required certification of employees. Our labor attorney is prepared to go to the state labor board, once again, to have these three unions created through this certification program, to have them thrown out or put under the town manager and town council. It is clear that this has been abused and ignored by the board of ed over the past 18 years. When I came back as town manager, I quickly realized something was wrong because the board of ed was negotiating with classified employees and they had no right to be negotiating with them. So we currently have

three unions that were formed in my opinion inappropriately and illegally. The [town] council will be having a briefing by the labor attorney within the next month or so to make a decision as to whether to have these three unions eliminated or part of the town non-classified. The certification added to these employees should not have been done and the creation of these three unions was improper and we will probably be challenged on that.

- Dr. Brummett stated she knows that one union the town manager is referring to is the non-instructional administrators; I don't know the other two unions he's referring to.
- Town Manager Chapman stated that nurses is one and the O85 that was created and another one that has two or three people in it.
- Dr. Brummett stated she will address the nurses' union. That is something that occurred right after I began working here. The nurses petitioned to form a union, we met with the town manager at the time, as well as the town attorney at the time, and they agreed that union would negotiate with us, so that did occur. One thing in the Charter is they town manager retains control over classified employees under they are delegated to the superintendent. At the time, admittedly a different administration; we met with her, Brian Giantonio and they were eager to have us negotiate with the nurses, so that is what occurred. I am also joined by Steve Foresi and Lou Jachimowicz as well for any back up you need since that was right at the beginning of my tenure. I don't know of any other union other than what Mr. Chapman referred to as the O85, or non-instructional administrators. The key element is that those individuals are certified by the state of Connecticut, they possess an O85 certificate. The four individuals that have that certification are Director of Security and Residency, Assistant Business Manager, Director of Food Services and Director of Technology. Initially the Director of Transportation was in this union but is not currently.
- Chairman Harpie asked if these were teaching positions.
- Dr. Brummett stated no, but the state of Connecticut has many layers of certification. School nurses have petitioned the state of Connecticut to get certified like teachers and administrators, so that may be coming but those things are out our control. But in this instance, all four of those people require O85 certification in order function and to do their job. We have reviewed this time and again and they need it. They formed the union in 2018. It was recognized, there was a proper vote held and at that time they determined certification was necessary and that's how we proceeded since 2018. We are currently in negotiation with that union now and did have members of the town council sit in on that meeting. For all intents and purposes we evaluate them, we hire them, and they have to have state certification for their job responsibilities and are under the purview of my office or my designees. So that is where we currently stand. The Director of Transportation is not currently in that union. When he was hired, there were not any qualified candidates that had certification so the union at the time agreed to sign a memorandum of agreement saying the person we hire now doesn't need it, but he vacates that position, the next person will require that. So those are the items that support [our position.] We are not contesting the Charter, it clearly states the town manager oversees employees, unless they are certified. If the nurses is the issue, that was deferred to my office by a previous town manager. Mr. Chapman clearly has a different management style, I'm not sure how to resolve that. That may be a labor board issue, but I'm not sure. The labor union was formed lawfully in concert with the town at the

time and are currently a sitting union. That may be a labor board matter, but the certified employees seem straightforward to me.

- Chairman Harpie asked if these positions still exist.
- Dr. Brummett stated yes.
- Chairman Harpie asked about the transportation director.
- Dr. Brummett stated he is currently under the town because he is not a certified individual.
- Chairman Harpie asked Dr. Brummett if he reports to one of your people.
- Dr. Brummett stated that's an interesting and confusing point about Newington. While many employees are officially under the town and town manager, they are 100 percent, all of their functions are with the board; it's an interesting nuance. I did some research in preparation for this evening and this is an unusual agreement. Most towns have board handle their employees and the town handles their own employees. Newington is still one of a few communities that manage it this way. Middletown recently changed to having the board and town separately take care of employees. Don't know if that is part of your charge. Some of these under the town don't really work for the town.
- Chairman Harpie stated it is not the Charter Revisions Commission to get into any kind of conflict in terms of position or sustain or substantiate. Have no question of people's integrity, that's not the issue, out charge would be if something is in conflict with the Charter.
- Town Attorney Ancona stated that there are certain things that shouldn't be touched by this commission until the Labor Board makes a decision.
- Chairman Harpie stated that should be the footnote for us not making a recommendation.
- Town Manager Chapman stated if you back up the clock to 1994 it is reasonable to understand that all of those people that were under the town council and town manager, could not have legally entered into negotiations with the board of education the only one they can negotiate with is the town council and town manager. So these unions have been created under false pretenses and the problem I see is you have several people in the union, who do they work for? Half work for the board of ed and the other half are still considered town employees. It is the town manager that makes the decision on if they are terminated for reasons, not the superintendent. So we get into a lot of questionable behaviors that should not have occurred. I'm not sure how we got to where we are today. I notified the superintendent to not negotiate with the group, but she continued to negotiate with them.
- Chairman Harpie asked how they negotiate salaries with them.
- Mr. Foresi stated that both the petition to negotiate for our nurses and non-instructional administrators who hold a O85 certificate through the State Department of Education, both were presented to the town when the petition came through and the town decided to delegate that to the board at the time and appointed a town council member to each of the negotiations to occurred. So we negotiated in good faith, like we have to through the State Department of Education, the petition came to us and we have to meet timelines outline in those otherwise we'd be outside the legal confines we need to adhere to. Throughout that process, we in good faith, negotiated the salaries and arrangements and once those were negotiated, we presented that information to the board and the town and they were approved by both. So we continued in that process and these are for our nurses and for our O85 administers and two separate unions being discussed. They are two new contracts, so we are in the first iteration of those contracts, we held a meeting

prior to this and are currently in negotiation of the O85, non-administrator group; two town councilors were appointed to be part of the process and that's how we determined salary, benefits and all contractual rights they have.

- Chairman Harpie thanked everyone for coming, but again, the commission can only make recommendations on things that are within the Charter's purview and control. It appears there needs to be other discussion on this.
 - Town Manager Chapman stated that he didn't agree to anything and don't believe the Charter should be disregarded. Classified employees working under the town arbitrarily decided to get certified and start negotiation with the board of education that is not appropriate.
 - Commissioner Borrup stated he agrees it's not our role to adjudicate whatever dispute it going on right now, but I think it does make sense for us to look at the Charter language to figure out what makes sense for the community going forward. The superintendent mentioned Middletown and it would be interesting to hear what neighboring communities do so we can clarify these roles.
 - Mayor DelBuono stated that when she read this, not taking one side or the other, just speaking to the language itself. Don't know when the language was drafted, but it was clearly before 1994, I look at it what was the intent of the language when it was drafted. I guess the intent was that certified staff referred to teacher certification. Since the time this language was drafted, there are different certifications that fall within that realm and I think that's where the crux of the issue is. Would you specify that its teacher certification and not the others.
 - Chairman Harpie stated that most towns he looked at had similar language in terms of classified service, etc. Whenever they got into the O85 is when they made some adjustments to make room for that. There were a number of things in conflict with that revision of certifying teachers. That's why I asked if the certified were teachers and they're not and that changed the dynamic. Can see why the town manager is concerned about it. The Charter clearly states on position and they've created a buttress over that. Don't know if it as poor legal advice; not here to condemn any precious council or anyone.
- b. Discussion of Charge #2 - C-408, Obligatory Referendum and Ordinance with the Finance Director
- Chairman Harpie stated that Ms. Murphy is joining us to go over this section, specific to increasing the dollar level amounts and cleaning up the language. Was there index consideration with these original numbers in the Charter now? Just trying to get a sense of the benchmark on how these numbers were set.
 - Ms. Murphy stated probably at the time there was a good reason for them. Have looked at other towns and a lot of them do a certain percentage of their appropriation instead of setting a specific dollar amount. That may be something to consider; well within the realm of what other towns have been doing. Sometimes it might be better to do percentage of your total appropriation. AS expenses go up, your budget goes up and these limits go up and it might make it more realistic to what expenditures you are experiencing.
 - Chairman Harpie stated the commission would like to know what kind of index you would be comfortable with. Is something pegged to the T-bill rate, 2 ½% or 2.84% on a ten-year T-bill as an index to follow.

- Ms. Murphy stated that most towns typically do a percentage of the total budget appropriation; it's not tied to the T-bill. Would not tie it anyway the market; just to budget appropriation, wouldn't go over 1%.
- Chairman Harpie stated he thought West Hartford was at 30%.
- Ms. Murphy stated that is quite high, wouldn't want to go that high.
- Chairman Harpie stated that we were discussing in general somewhere around 2½%, something like that. Plainville or Enfield does a tax lien.
- Ms. Murphy stated that they probably base that on their grand list. I would want to somehow tie it in with expenses and revenues, because that's what we run the town on and as those go up or down that could be our limit.
- Town Clerk Krupinski stated Wethersfield has that in their current charter.
- Chairman Harpie stated that the commission is concerned about how the language reads, can we change that if we set a percentage.
- Ms. Murphy stated that she reads it as two separate issues. Two different things, not saying it's between this and this.
- Chairman Harpie asked if the 375 limit should be changed and if the language "no resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds or notes, other than notes in the amount of \$375,000 or less" was still necessary.
- Ms. Murphy stated yes. You could change the limit and make it the same as the special appropriation if you wanted to. You definitely still need that language in there.
- Chairman Harpie asked what you use that for. Is it to go out and borrow when cash is tight?
- Ms. Murphy stated we don't know. That's why we have the CIP account. We only go out to bond for extremely large projects and typically it's a multi-million dollar project for us to go out to bond.
- Commissioner Miner stated that when talking about Wethersfield, they commonly bond for road projects, it's a regular occurrence for them to pose bond questions on their election cycle, so I think they are a lot different than we are in terms of how to budget funds. Janet – was there any language on the special appropriation versus budgeted appropriation, is there any way to clean that up or clarify it?
- Ms. Murphy stated she totally agrees that needs to be cleaned up. Special appropriation is different than when we get appropriation approved through the budget process. That language it needs to state that special appropriation does not apply if we go through the budget process to approve an appropriation.
- Commissioner Miner stated that's important to clarify so there's no confusion moving forward.
- Chairman Harpie stated that the town attorney provided us with a definition of special appropriation and he recommends new language in C408: "a special appropriation defined as any appropriation other than the main support appropriation and a budget act or adoption, a special appropriation is not included in the annual budget process."
- Ms. Murphy stated that language is perfect. That sounds good.
- Chairman Harpie stated that the commission was considering included that recommended language. There was also a question regarding an emergency ordinance.
- Commissioner Miner stated the only concern he has regarding that when that need arises it's a necessity and decisions and actions are taken immediately. Think we need to be

careful on not to be too tight on that to maybe clearly define what an emergency might be, but I think that may be tough to do.

- Ms. Murphy stated that she has read C409 and don't know what questions there are regarding finance on that.
- Chairman Harpie stated it's in relation to a question from the public and what Mr. Miner just said. Plainville did have a percentage attached to the emergency ordinance. I think that's where I saw 1% of tax liens.
- Ms. Murphy stated she mainly sees that in special appropriations.
- Chairman Harpie asked Ms. Murphy if attaching a percentage to that would be a mistake. Think what the public is saying is how do we know where that would go. How much would be borrowing. Would language like "15 days of the declaration of the emergency, within 30 days, but no later than 30 days, a special meeting would be required by the town council to review the status of the expenditures to date and the projected expenditures on this project." Certainly before the 61 day drop off period. Allow the public to get involved; not that the council wouldn't, just something they have to adhere to.
- Ms. Murphy stated she wouldn't have any issues with that.
- Chairman Harpie stated he has a question on §C 811 – *Borrowing to Meet Emergency Appropriations*. Not sure why it's 811 and not connected with 408 or 409 and why it finds its own place in the Charter. Is this what happened during the fuel spill?
- Ms. Murphy stated we didn't get to that point, we other avenues and other funds that could be used.
- Chairman Harpie read language from the Charter regarding "Emergency Note." How pertinent is that language?
- Ms. Murphy stated you have to get approval through the budget process or referendum to actually finance to pay that off in the next year. It makes sure that it's nothing to large that your budget or some other financing can't get approved to cover.
- Chairman Harpie stated that we should have language in there that the public needs to approve through referendum.
- Ms. Murphy stated that or through the budget process.
- John Bachand, 56 Maple Hill Avenue. So there's still a lot of confusion to the general public as what is a special appropriation, what's a loan, a note and the limits are a bit confusing. I think she was referring to that there is no in-between, is there as specific range on the special appropriation and it specifically says the range between 975 and 375 has to be passed by ordinance.
- Ms. Murphy stated no. If you read it is says "no resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds or notes, other than those in the amount of \$375,000 or less, and no resolutions make a special appropriation in excess of \$975,000, shall become effective until the same has been approved by a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon at a regular election or referendum called by the Council for that purpose." So they are two separate things – notes or bonds in the amount of 375 and a special appropriation in excess of 975. The language following seems contradictory, you are correct.
- Mr. Bachand stated that this is where it gets confusing for me. I'm starting to believe that a special appropriation is not alone, it's money we have available.
- Ms. Murphy stated that is correct.

- Mr. Bachand stated that the council has some discretion where they can propose an ordinance between 375 and 975; it has to go through the ordinance process. Fully agree with Mr. Harpie about the Emergency Ordinance that should be in Section 4. One of the things I'm concerned about is how that gets passed. No exception in 405 regarding an emergency ordinance. Confused about the 375, council can't approve borrowing on that. Can spend up to 375 in cash or borrow without referendum. Wethersfield does have a percentage cap.
 - Chairman Harpie stated that we will be looking into that. Can you go to *C 813 – Competitive Bidding*; does that \$30,000 figure need to be reevaluated?
 - Ms. Murphy stated we need to say within state numbers; they are at 50, but I prefer not to go that high, that way we're saying we're doing more due diligence with applying for state grants. You could raise it, but I wouldn't go much higher than 40. When we apply for grants and get audited I want to make sure our requirements are even more restrictive than theirs and we are following purchasing guidelines.
 - Chairman Harpie stated we will go to town attorney and town council for specific language.
 - Mayor DelBuono asked about changing the 975 to a percentage. What would that percent be of?
 - Ms. Murphy stated that a lot of towns have it a percentage of total appropriation, all of our expenditures.
 - Mayor DelBuono stated that she wants to make sure they have an idea of the amount when we look at it.
 - Chairman Harpie stated that could make things easier if not a specific amount.
 - Town Clerk Krupinski stated that he wanted to address Emergency Ordinance. See ties into emergency meetings under general statute 1-200 and there are three types regular, special and emergency. Emergency does not require prior notification of any actions and in that same meeting you can take necessary action and in this case to preserve the health and safety of the town. That's one the reasons that this expires after 61 days, do think we can clean up language.
 - Chairman Harpie would like to see a public hearing during this process regarding costs.
 - Town Clerk Krupinski stated that you may not know the cost in the emergency situation that is why it has the six vote instead of the five.
 - Chairman Harpie stated that he is concerned about cataloguing this information and how to move forward in terms of getting this into agreed language.
- c. Continuing Discussion on Commission Charges
- Chairman Harpie stated that they are confused about Parks & Rec. and the discussion was regarding 11 board members. Mr. Woods is concerned about shrinking the number of board members. Want to get the right information on what the board wants.
 - Town Clerk Krupinski stated that he's had a number of conversations with Mr. Woods and Mr. DeMaio. My recommendation is to remove the reference to specific membership and leaving reference to parks & rec in here and creating the Parks and Recreation Commission under Chapter 8 that allows us more leeway to make changes to the membership of it without having to pen the Charter. That way they can make it 7 members with 4 alternates, that way they leave their current membership in place, as people come off, they may determine they don't have the need for that many people.
 - Chairman Harpie stated that we just make that recommendation.

- Mayor DelBuono stated that we would reference a Parks & Recreation Commission and just refer to section 8. This was a recommendation brought to the council, there is no desire for the council to want to change anything.
- Chairman Harpie stated Mr. Woods wanted to keep it the same because they have been getting a quorum.
- Town Clerk Krupinski stated that they were looking at it as a less restrictive majority party, so a more even between parties.
- Chairman Harpie stated he was glad the superintendent and town manager came in; we clearly don't have any role until they get certain things resolved. We will make note of the information received.
- Commissioner Borrup asked why we wouldn't take the opportunity to clear up the language if it's causing this kind of struggle between the town manager and the superintendent.
- Chairman Harpie stated he's not sure we can clean it up. The town attorney stated they may be taking some sort of action. Don't want to put anything on the council that can't be sustained.
- Commissioner Borrup stated we should think about the community and what makes sense going forward.
- Chairman Harpie stated that we'll talk about it.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that AFSCME employees for both the town and BOE fall under the town manager. For example, if someone needed to be dismissed, for whatever reason and whether a town employee or BOE employee, the town manager would be the one to do that. That's where his role is solid and delineated.
- Chairman Harpie stated that it's a discussion to be had.
- Councilor Miner asked the timeframes for when three unions were created.
- Town Clerk Krupinski stated that the nurses' union was in effect, disbanded and back into effect in late 2018. The non-instructional was approx. 2019 or 2020. I'm not sure about the third one. All of those positions are currently in classified service and they're in or plan currently because they did not request to be removed.
- Chairman Harpie stated that is correct, that has not been resolved. We need to think about this. Have a quick question about removal of members from committees, etc. Can you tell us more specifically what you are looking for from this commission?
- Mayor DelBuono stated that the process in place is a reason to remove someone based on ethical or behavior or something like that makes sense. The real issue we have is we don't feel we need to follow that process if a person no longer qualifies to be on the committee or commission, say for example if someone moves out of town, it precludes them from being on a commission and without a letter of resignation, the only way to remove them is through that formal process. It's quite a process. There should be a way if they don't meet certain criteria the council can remove them from the commission without going through a formal process.
- Chairman Harpie asked if the council would be open to a percentage of meetings.
- Town Clerk Krupinski stated that Wethersfield has language in their charter for a removal procedure of three regular meetings or up to 50%.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that the three meetings makes me nervous if someone has a medical issue and can't make a meeting, we have to be cautious of that.

- Town Clerk Krupienski read from the Wethersfield charter language “upon such member’s unexcused absence from fifty percent or more of the meetings, whether regular or special, of the board, committee, commission or agency within a calendar year, unless otherwise provide by the General Statutes of the state.” It’s similar to what we did in our Boards and Commissions book.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that makes sense. Hate to have a position unfilled for 50% of a calendar year.
- Chairman Harpie stated you are more concerned if someone move out of town.
- Town Clerk Krupienski state moved out of town, deceased, something like that.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that certain committee require certain qualifications, so if you don’t meet that you should be able to be removed without the formal process.
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated we need to find an easier process.
- Mayor DelBuono stated that we did have that instance once in my ten years and we did follow that process.
- Chairman Harpie asked if they really want a time for the organizational meeting to be in the Charter.
- Mayor DelBuono stated we put 7 p.m. because that’s what time our meetings normally start, but you can just take the time out and have it be at the discretion of the current council.
- Chairman Harpie asked the Library Trustees was already in there.
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated they are an unusual organization. The town council appoints six members and the rest are trustees of the incorporated library itself. There’s a bit of ambiguity of how it functions. It could use some tweaking.
- Chairman Harpie asked if we should have them come in to discuss.
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated we could ask the chair (Dianne Stamm) to come in if she’s available, or she can send in one of her officer’s as well.
- Chairman Harpie stated that given the sensitivity of issues with the library it might be a good idea to have her come in. Regarding town planner and police chief residency requirements; currently there are no residency requirements for either of those positions, but yet they both live in town.
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated that in 1994, we added a residency requirement for the tax collector, but that has since been removed in 2012. Slowly they’ve all been coming out of the Charter.
- Chairman Harpie stated that with the police chief, he can’t require rank have residency requirements. Don’t understand town planner.
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated our current town planner recommended not going with that. It’s a difficult position to fill and you may go with a contracted position if someone isn’t available.
- Chairman Harpie stated review language in C-410, Right of Referendum on Ordinances, to ensure that the existing language and timeline is properly outlined.
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated that there is some confusion in that. The town clerk needs to certify numbers and the timeline needs to be clearer. Will provide some language.
- Chairman Harpie stated that last one is C-609 – Auditor, to include reference to Audit Committee. Do have some language on that that I can provide. How many members are you looking for?
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated that it’s normally three and council appointed.

- Chairman Harpie stated that they should have qualifications – accounting major or associated closely with governmental accounting.
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated we have an audit committee and an auditor. The question is the process of when we go out for auditor. Section 609 says we have an order. But beyond that who appoints, makes the determination, creates the contract, reviews for recommendation. Are we leaving that under the purview of the town manager or audit committee that we currently have? The current audit committee consists of three members and all appointed by town council. Do we make it an outside agency of the town or keep it under the council?
- Chairman Harpie stated that he read somewhere that they had an accounting major reviewing the work of the auditor. They did this independently. They also dealt with bids, writing specs, etc. Another issue is staggered terms, which is difficult to deal with.
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated that is how the Board of Fire Commissioners is.
- Chairman Harpie stated he doesn't know how the council feels about three year terms and whether that would be workable. I found a town in Maine that has three year terms.
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated if you were to review that you need to look at Chapter 201 which specifically states we hold elections in each odd number year on a Tuesday in November.
- Chairman Harpie stated that we need to discuss with the parties and the registrar's office.
- Mayor DelBuono stated she likes the idea, of staggered terms and three instead of two, you feel you are just getting your feet under you at the end of your that first term, but then you have to run for reelection. However, if you do staggered you would be having a municipal election every year and that's hard work and would be a hardship for the Democratic and Republican town committees.
- Chairman Harpie stated that Wethersfield everyone just runs for the council and then they elect a chairperson, and he or she runs the council. Instead of having a one on one mayoral race, don't know if that's a value system or not, don't know how to measure that.
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated that can be difficult.
- Chairman Harpie asked about the schedule. Has April died?
- Town Clerk Krupienski stated that basically yes. The Tuesday's that we chose are Council budget meetings. Happy to meet on other days if everyone is available.
- Chairman Harpie asked James to provide a few dates.

7. Public Participation on Agenda Items **(Via Zoom Application or Phone)**

(2 Minute Time Limit per Speaker) (888) 788-0099 or (877) 853-5247

- Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive. Just a comment about removing someone from a board or commission; attend several meetings, not many have specific requirements as to qualifications. Hope when you look at it there's some specific reason for removal; have seen in social media cries to remove this one or that one because of something that was said or insinuated on social media. One actually went forward but didn't go anywhere because it is considered freedom of speech to express opinion on social media. Sometimes people just don't show up. Good thing to look at, it can be a slippery slope.
- John Bachand, 56 Maple Hill. Don't envy some of the things you need to debate. Maybe there should be a glossary of terms. What is special appropriation? What's a loan? In regard that may be helpful. Most of the Charter I find easy to read, but some of it gets a bit cloudy. I guess I agree with having no cap for an emergency. Fully support longer term for the

mayor. Would prefer to see a two year budget, don't know if that's legal or possible. Some towns are doing three years and even four year terms. Think we could do away with residency requirement for town manager.

- Patty Foley, 51 Crown Ridge. Wanted to touch on something regarding what Rose and the Mayor said. Having been ill a little while in my life made being on a commission very difficult. So when considering removing somebody you should consider an illness or sickness issue. Pleased council is looking at the environmental commission which doesn't open up the Charter and makes it easier to amend and much more expedient so a commission can expand or evolve as needed. Stuck with not getting people to volunteer and if one person was on vacation we couldn't have a meeting because we never had a quorum, and not that long ago it was 11 people, now that it's down to 7 its much more reasonable.

8. Comments by Commissioners

- Commissioner Cappella stated that she thinks tonight's meeting was very helpful for all of us. Got a better overview on how to tackle this.
- Commissioner Borup stated seeing where there's ambiguity or multiple interpretations of the Charter it's good we're on this and can hopefully address it.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Councilor Miner to adjourn at 8:26 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Gibbon

Recording Clerk – 2022 Charter Revision Commission