



TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY

Charter Revision Commission

AGENDA

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, March 24 2020 – 6:00 p.m.

VIA ZOOM – MEETING I.D. 613428720

Present: Diana Anton
Curt Bosco
Paul Bialobrzkeski
John A. Jenusaitis
Tom King
Natrajan Kuppuraj
Michael McVerry, Chairman

Also Present: Barbara Whitaker, Recording Clerk
Linda Zukauskas
Joyce and Robert Berger

Call to Order with Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 6:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of March 16, 2020 Meeting

John Jenusaitis MOTIONED to approve the minutes with change that Section 202 should be Section 202a; SECONDED by Tom King. Unanimous approval.

Discussion and Consideration

Consideration of Items Made at Public Hearing (via email, hand delivery, etc.)

1. Section 202 (A) – First Selectman and Board of Selectmen

- a. Unsuccessful first selectman candidate ineligible to serve on Board
Attorney McVerry found language that this is provided for this in the Woodbury, CT Charter (attached)

Ms. Anton discussed going to a four year term would it also be for the 2nd and 3rd Selectman. The current first selectman feels there is a current learning curve. Mr. King said that if they are going to a four year term; the Selectmen should be on two year terms.

- b. Four Year term for First Selectman and the Second and Third Selectmen
The Chairman stated that suggestion is that the second and third Selectmen would be up for election every two years; running separately. Mr. Bialobrzkeski also agrees. This would up the nominations for two candidates for the Selectmen position.

At this time, Mr. Bosco said that he spoke with Bill Stowell, Chairman of the Board of Finance who suggested all three positions become four year terms; and that the First Selectman will occur two years from now; with staggered

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terms; First selectman and selectman; and the alternating year would be just one selectmen; set to three four year terms eliminates the possibility that anyone could run for two offices

Mr. McVerry requested that Mr. Bosco reach out to Bill Stowell to request his suggestion be submitted in writing to the Commission for their next meeting.

- c. Term Limits for First Selectman
Removing term limits for First Selectman. Mr. Jenusaitis feels there should be no term limits; Ms. Anton feels that there should be term limits. Paul agrees that there should be no term limits for any office.
2. Section 202 (C) – Tax Collector – elected or appointed
The Commission agreed that this position should remain an elected.
3. Section 202 (H) Library Directors/Trustees replace reference to Directors/Trustees to Trustees; Substitute Library Director for Head Director;
All agree on this change.
4. Section 208 – Compensation – add Registrars of Voters;
The Chairman explained that the Registrars of Voters are compensated now; however it was not added into the Charter. All agreed on this.
5. Section 209 – Minority Representation – change maximum number from 1 party on boards with 7 members from 4 to 5 (conform to Statute (apparently a typo last time);
All agree to correct this.
6. Section 212 – change requested by former Town Clerk –
Mr. Bosco stated that currently, a list provided by the Town Committee in order of preference. Mr. Bosco feels that the Board of Selectmen should be required to address why the person that was recommended but not chosen was their choice. This would remove the Board of Selectmen from being the arbiter of who is chosen. Mr. King agrees however, he does not feel it is necessary to provide a list allowing the Board of Selectmen to make their choice. The Chairman said if the Town Committee feels strong enough to submit the names then either of them should be qualified for the position.
7. Section 306 – request to correct a typo varitions to variations
This can be changed.
8. Section 506 – Appointed Boards, Commissions, Committees – adding Land Preservation and Open Space Acquisition Committee
Tabled.

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9. Section 602 – Administrative Officers – suggestion from Town Clerk to add Public Works, Director, Assistant Public Works Director, Social Services Director, Police Chief, Library Director, HR Director

Tabled.

10. Section 702 C. Board of Finance Duties – add new Subsection 3 to the effect that prior to the Public Hearing, the BOF will meet with the BOS to discuss the proposed budget with a required affirmative vote of each board being required to forward to a public hearing; Renumbering Subsections 3, 4, 5, and 6 to 4, 5, 6, and 7

Mr. King agrees with what the First Selectman requested on this. TABLED.

11. Section 702 D Annual Budget Referendum – Change “on the First Wednesday in May” to First Wednesday after the First Monday in May or at such other date, hours and location as may be determined by the Board of Selectmen (so as to coincide with the Board of Education Budget Referendum)

Mr. Bosco said that this vote should be made consistent with the Board of Education vote.

12. Section 901 – Town Meeting – review suggestion by Town Attorney Robert Smith – attached re Town Meeting and Board of Selectmen

Mr. Bosco said this should be incorporated. The Commission agreed.

Joyce Berger asked if there will be a public hearing regarding the two or four year term. Mr. McVerry explained that when the Board puts all of its recommendations together, another public hearing will be held before they give a draft to the Town Clerk and then it goes to the Board of Selectmen for recommendations. If there are recommendations the Board will meet with the Charter Commission.

Bob Berger feels that for the sake of checks and balances he would like to see five Selectmen that would give inclusion on Independents, Unaffiliated and Libertarians.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 30, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Adjournment

Ms. Anton MOTIONED to ADJOURN the meeting at 7:01 p.m. SECONDED by Mr. King. Unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Whitaker

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Recording Clerk