



TOWN OF MADISON
CONNECTICUT 06443

MEETING DATE:

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

MEETING PLACE:

Zoom

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**Charter Review Commission
Minutes**

Members Present: Joe MacDougald (Chair), Liz Daly, Matthew Gordon, Noreen Kokoruda, Robert O'Connor, David Osterman.

Others Present: Lauren Rhines, Town Services Coordinator / Risk Manager
Stacy Nobitz, Finance Director
Jean Fitzgerald, Board of Finance Chair
Justin Murphy, Board of Finance
Jude Friedmann, Board of Finance

The committee convened at approximately 5:04 p.m.

1. Begin Review of Articles 1-3 of the Charter.

Changes are recorded in a red-line draft of the Charter document.

The Committee reviewed the Preamble and made revisions to the nomenclature of the term "voter" and agreed to include specific reference to State Statute.

The Committee reviewed clerical changes to section 1.2B

The Committee reviewed that they needed further clarification on Article II – Town Meeting – Legislative Branch.

2. Public Comment (to begin roughly 5:15 pm).

None.

3. Review and take action to approve prior meeting minutes.

MOVED by Noreen Kokoruda and seconded by Robert O'Connor to approve the Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2021.

VOTE: the motion was passed with five affirmative votes; Ms. Walker was not in attendance for the vote.

4. Review Charter input from Board of Finance.

The Board of Finance introduced themselves and provided an overview of their current purview which is to look at the budget and tax impact on the Town; not to weigh in on personnel or operation matters. The BOF considers the projects and initiatives recommended by the Board of Selectmen as they relate to funding and taxes.

Chairman MacDougald questioned what the Charter should say about the limits on decision making of purchasing property/land. The BOF reviewed that there needs to be a checks and balances on these types of purchases.

The Committee and BOF members reviewed that the Charter currently allows the BOF to serve as the budget-making authority. The members present discussed what role the BOF has in agreeing to policy or purchases versus the funding of recommended policies and purchases. Overall the Committee was advised to be careful in what guardrails they institute to ensure that the checks and balances is maintained between the elected boards.

The BOF reviewed that the Charter should be clearer on the change of use of town property to outside entities and whether this should live in section 10.2 or in 4.1.4E disposition of real property.

5. Review Charter input from Finance Director, Stacy Nobitz

Ms. Nobitz clarified the balance of the smooth running of government versus the need for additional or transfer funds that go to the Board of Finance. She stated that the Charter currently dictates that departments must go to the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance for all Special Appropriations and Line Item Transfers. She clarified that LIT's, even for minor amounts, must go to both Boards although the funds exist in current department budgets. Special Appropriations are requests which are above and beyond the current budgeted funds.

6. Public Comment.

None.

7. Adjourn.

There being no objections, the Committee adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lauren Rhines
Town Services Coordinator / Risk Manager