



TOWN OF MADISON
CONNECTICUT 06443

MEETING DATE:

Tuesday, March 30, 2021

MEETING PLACE:

Zoom

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**Charter Review Commission
Minutes**

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

Others Present: Lauren Rhines, Town Services Coordinator / Risk Manager
Craig Cooke, Superintendent
Gaylen Cawley, Board of Education Chair
Katie Stein, Board of Education
Bob Polito, Ad-Hoc Government Study Committee Chair
Bob Reinhardt, Ad-Hoc Government Study Committee

The committee convened at approximately 5:01 p.m.

1. Review of Article 2 of the Charter.

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

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

None.

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

MOVED by Matthew Gordon and seconded by Liz Daly to approve the Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2021.

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

4. Review Charter input from Board of Education.

The Board of Education representatives introduced themselves and provided an overview of their current purview. Overall the BOE representatives discussed budget and referendum timelines as well as restrictions of spending that trigger a Town Meeting. Superintendent Cooke stated that the elected boards work very well together and maintain a good working relationship. Based on his prior work experience, Superintendent Cooke stated that a Town Manager form of government had many benefits to the Towns where he used to work.

The Committee reviewed the shared staff services between the Town and Board of Education as well as what types of shared services may need to be in the Charter. Superintendent Cooke stated that these parameters did not necessarily need to be codified in the Charter.

The BOE reps reviewed Section 6.3 of the Charter and Ms. Stein stated that the 4-year terms for members was appropriate.

Chairman MacDougald questioned if it would be appropriate to include any specifications relating to the BOE and Capital Improvement Program oversight and implementation.

Ms. Stein commented that the 2-year term of the Board of Selectmen creates more issue than not. The BOE reps also confirmed that they felt that 9 members on the BOE was appropriate. Ms. Stein also added that the Town Manager role could run similarly to the Superintendent and that this type of role on the Town-side could be beneficial.

5. Review work of the Ad-Hoc Government Study Committee.

Ad-Hoc Government Study Committee Chair, Bob Polito and member Bob Reinhardt introduced themselves. Mr. Polito reviewed the process of the Ad-Hoc Government Study Committee and provided an overview of the possible solutions that the committee proposed to the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Polito stated that personally by the end of the process, he felt the Town would benefit from a Town Manager. The reps also reviewed quorum rules and a general lack of participation in Town matters by the public. The Ad-Hoc committee members also reviewed that RTM form of government would provide benefits to the Town as well. Overall the conversation centered on continuity and how that continuity of services is established and maintained.

The Committee also reviewed whether there was a recommendation from the Ad-Hoc committee as to whether the "losing" First Selectman should still be seated on the Board of Selectmen. It was discussed that this does lend to a system of animosity from the "losing" Selectman.

6. Public Comment.

None.

7. Adjourn.

There being no objections, the Committee adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lauren Rhines
Town Services Coordinator / Risk Manager