

MINUTES
Charter Revision Commission
Wednesday, April 23, 2025 – 6:00 PM
Norma Drummer Room – Seymour Town Hall

Members Present: Thomas Gardella, Tara Miller, John Stelma, Naveen Madivala, John Lombardo and Richard E. Peck, JoAnn Sardo.

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: CAO, Kurt Miller; Town Counsel, Bryan LeClerc; Theresa Conroy and Kaitlin Hamilton.

ITEM #1: Call meeting to order - Meeting was called to order by Chairman Gardella at 6:01 PM.

ITEM #2: Pledge of Allegiance - Everyone saluted the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #3: Public Comment – None.

ITEM #4: Approval of minutes from the March 26, 2025 meeting.

- Motion to approve minutes from the March 26, 2025 meeting with corrections.

Discussion: Chairman Gardella clarified paragraph regarding movement of budget as follows: the board is looking to eliminate the town meeting. They would like to revisit also at this meeting. Commission on Aging discussion needs to be OMITTED from the minutes.

Motion: Tara Miller

Second: John Lombardo

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

ITEM #5: Comments from the Student Body Representatives – None.

ITEM #6: Discussion and possible action regarding the review of the Town of Seymour Charter.

- **Shared Services:** Bryan discussed his preliminary write up regarding a shared services relationship between the Town of Seymour and the Board of Education. Kurt explained how the shared services will be funded/allocated and how it would work out with regard to the budget.
- **Term Limits:** Bryan discussed his preliminary write up regarding term limits. Example: "An individual serving as ____ shall be limited to serving ____ full and consecutive terms. An individual serving as members of ____ shall be limited to serving ____ full and consecutive terms." The board discussed the pros and cons of having term limits. They discussed advisory questions on a previous charter revision: "Shall the Town Charter be amended to increase the term of the First Selectman from two to four years and to set term limits for the First Selectman?" it did NOT pass. "Shall the Town Charter be amended to set term limits for all elected boards?" it DID pass. They discussed limiting terms as opposed to years.
- **Eliminating Town Meeting/Budget Process:** Bryan discussed his red line write up for the budget process – Section 14.3 as follows:
 - Board of Finance sends out budget request forms to all departments, boards and commissions. Anyone/any department, board, agency, or official seeking an appropriation has to make the request no later than February 1st. February 1st the budget gets filed with the Town Clerk. The First Selectman and Finance Director will get copies of budget requests. The First Selectman will then review the budget request with the Department Director and the Finance Director. The First Selectman will make a recommendation to the Board of Finance. The Finance Director and the Chief Financial officer for the public school system shall supply the BOF with specific legal obligations no later than the 3rd Tuesday of January.

- Duties of the Board of Finance with regard to the budget process:
 - No later than 30 days prior to the Annual Town Budget meeting, the Board of Finance has to look at the income or estimate of funds available
 - The Board of Finance will let the departments, boards and officials will make a presentation of their request
 - A Public Hearing to be called no later than the 3rd Thursday in March, notice of such shall be published in the newspaper
 - Immediately upon conclusion of the second budget hearing (third Thursday in March), the Board of Finance has to approve the final budget to be presented to the Board of Selectpersons
- Duties of Board of Selectpersons with regard to the budget process.
 - Get budget from BOF, they review and may reduce but not increase as they deem necessary
 - Annual Budget Meeting will be on the first Thursday of April. It will be meant for the residents to receive presentations from the Board of Selectpersons and the Board of Finance regarding the budget. After the Board of Finance and Board of Selectpersons make their budget presentations, the Annual Budget Meeting will be adjourned directly to referendum for a vote

Bryan stated it could be a presentation and/or a public comment

The board discussed the pros and cons of eliminating the Annual Town Meeting.

They discussed the turn out for the Annual Town Meeting over the past years.

The board decided to KEEP the Annual Town Meeting – NOT to eliminate it.

They discussed reducing or increasing the number for a quorum for the Annual Town Meeting. The board decided the KEEP the quorum for the Annual Town Meeting at 50.

The board decided to make NO CHANGES to the Annual Town Meeting process.

Kurt suggested setting actual dates such as first Thursday in April.

The board agreed to make the first Tuesday in April the Annual Town Meeting. The board also agreed to make the Referendums every other Tuesday beginning the third Tuesday in April, first and third Tuesdays in May.

- Motion to adopt the first Tuesday in April the Annual Town Meeting, the Referendums beginning the third Tuesday in April, first and third Tuesdays in May.

Motion: Richard Peck

Second: John Lombardo

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

ITEM #7: Public Comment – None.

ITEM #8: Commission Member Comments – None.

ITEM #9: Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 PM

Motion: Richard Peck

Second:

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

Submitted by,



Lianna McMurray, Recording Secretary