

Town Of Marshfield
Charter Review Committee Meeting Minutes
Seth Ventress Building Auditorium
April 7, 2016

Present: Dr. Scott Borstel, Acting Chair, Bruce Spitler, Acting Vice Chair, Barbara Farnsworth, Jonathan Grabowski, Daniel Burke, Alyssa (McNamara) Reed, Robert Marzelli and Steven Robbins

Absent: William Bowers and Donald Gibson

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 P.M.

Robert Galvin, Esq., Town Counsel was present to assist the Committee.

Minutes of March 23, 2016 Meeting: Mr. Marzelli moved to accept as amended, Ms. Farnsworth seconded, PASSED.

Minutes of April 10, 2016 Meeting: Mr. Burke moved to accept as amended, Ms. Farnsworth seconded, PASSED.

The Committee was opened to public comment and was addressed by David Carriere who asked if the Board of Selectmen would follow the recommendations of the CRC.

Old Business

A discussion followed with Mr. Marzelli and Mr. Galvin commenting on the law, and their opinions regarding the Board of Selectmen's ability to amend the recommendations of the CRC. Mr. Marzelli pointed out that the Committee is a separate and independent body. Mr. Galvin said the Committee has been charged with a task by the Selectmen. Dr. Borstel indicated that the results of the study will be transparent and the view of all the people. The information and the recommendations that will be put forth should not be rejected.

Mr. Robbins update from the Board of Selectmen included that the funding for the Committee would be put in to the Special Town Meeting Warrant in the Fall, and there is no money budgeted at this time in the upcoming Town Meeting. However, the Selectmen's Office will be able to meet the needs for a recording secretary, printing, and access to an IT person.

Ms. Farnsworth handed out notes from her meeting with Beverly and Kate, the secretaries of the Board of Selectmen and reviewed them with the Committee.

Ms. Farnsworth and Ms. Reed met with the Town Administrator, Rocco Longo to talk about the Town Meeting process. They discussed the four week warrant rule, and the fact that it always requires changes before Town Meeting; the high cost of press releases for public notices and the possibility of putting them on line; the need of more authority for the Town Administrator; the budget process; the warrant process; and the need for a human resource position to make the hiring process more efficient. Mr. Longo submitted a large amount of reading material pertaining to the subjects we are reviewing which will be available next week.

Mr. Galvin reviewed the warrant process and how Town Council must review articles for their legality and approval, a process which begins in January and goes on until Town Meeting. He indicated that surveys and collected information from focus groups, etc. will be included in the warrant.

The Committee reviewed the last draft of the survey and made changes to: page 1, changed last paragraph to include “once you begin this session you must complete”; question 1; Article 2; question 4; question 9; question 11; question 12; and question 13. Mr. Marzelli moved to approve the changes made to the survey, Ms. Farnsworth seconded, PASSED. Ms. Farnsworth will make the changes for the newspaper survey.

New Business

The Committee discussed ideas and format for the website content. Mr. Grabowski will be working with John Nash, the IT person for the Town.

Mr. Burke will create a slide presentation for Town Meeting to inform people of the survey and available links, if the Town Moderator agrees.

The Committee discussed putting the survey out on April 25th to coincide with Town Meeting and closing it on May 25th. They hope to set up questions for interviews with department heads and chairpersons of the various boards and committees and identify dates for a public forum at the next meeting. They discussed putting the paper survey at Town Hall, the Library, and the Senior Center for widespread distribution.

Mr. Marzelli moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 P.M., Mr. Burke seconded, and the motion was passed.

Next meeting

Thursday, April 14, 2016, 7:00 PM, Seth Ventress Building Auditorium

Respectfully Submitted,

Maria Hebert, Secretary