

Town of Cromwell
Charter Revision Commission
Special Meeting
Tuesday, April 26, 2011
7:00 PM – Town Hall, Room 222

Minutes and Records of Votes

- A. The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by Chairman Ed Maley. Present were Richard Duffy, Enzo Faienza, Jay Polke, Carl Banic, Frank Seidl and Phil Gagnon.

B. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of March 23, 2011 – A **motion** was made by Carl Banic to accept the minutes of the meeting on March 23, 2011 and was **seconded** by Frank Seidl. *All were in favor, the motion was passed.*

C. New Business

Ed Maley started the meeting by saying he apologized for not attending the March 23, 2011 meeting. He thought they talked about shooting for a meeting on that date he did not realize that it was actually decided there would be a meeting.

He also stated that on the advice of the 1st Selectman he received three estimates from different attorneys for help with the Charter Revision. The estimates ranged from \$30,000 to \$80,000. Ed Maley asked the Board of Selectman for \$50,000 and it was approved with them but the Board of Finance was not as agreeable and did not support the request.

Ed Maley said that at this point he is out of step with the majority and intended to get to the Town Clerks office today but did not make it. He will make it a point to get there tomorrow to submit his letter of resignation as Chairman of the Charter Revision Commission. He feels the Commission would be better off with someone else heading the process and pushing a Charter that he can't support. It is not official but it is a given.

He then said that as Vice Chair, Enzo Faienza should be named Chair. Mr. Faienza said he would be happy to take on that role as long as everyone else was in agreement. He did not think it was correct to make a motion naming him as chair until Mr. Maley officially submitted his resignation to the Town Clerk. The Commission then said they would need to appoint a new Vice Chair.

A **motion** was made by Jay Polke to name Phil Gagnon as the new Vice Chair of the Charter Revision Committee and was **seconded** by Richard Duffy. *All were in favor, the motion was passed.*

Phil Gagnon thanked the committee and said he will serve the Commission to the best of his ability.

Enzo Faienza then thanked Ed Maley for of his hard work and commitment to the Commission. He went on to say that funding for legal help is definitely needed. He said that in 2003 the

Charter Revision was completed for \$2500 but doesn't think that is anywhere near feasible for what they are trying to accomplish. Ed Maley said that may not be accurate because the Town Attorney did work on that and the way he billed may make it hard to tell what the actual costs were. Phil Gagnon asked if anything prohibited them using the Town Attorney and Mr. Faienza said no but they would still need an estimate. Mr. Faienza asked Mr. Maley to provide him the names of the Attorneys he received (unwritten) estimates from so he can go back to them. He will also contact one more for an estimate. Phil Gagnon asked if they could ask the Board of Selectman or the Board of Finance for a lower amount. His experiences show that this should cost more in the way of \$20,000 to \$40,000. Mr. Maley said he did ask them to split the cost between two years and they opted to review the full \$50,000 at once. Mr. Polke reminded them that the problem was with the Board of Finance and they did not support the request at all. He asked Mr. Maley if it was purely denied because of the financial aspect or something else. Mr. Maley said he thought it was a variety of things including what he thought was a small political group that doesn't want to change things and doesn't think it is worth the money. Mr. Polke then asked if they could ask the residents of Cromwell if they want a change of Government in Cromwell. Mr. Maley said that there is a state statute that prohibits general referendums. Mr. Polke reminded the Commission that there was a previous Public Hearing with 40-50 people in attendance and no one came forward to say we want to keep things the way they are. Phil Gagnon agreed and thinks the Commission should keep going down the path they are on.

Mr. Faienza said they can either get new quotes or ask the Board of Selectman if they can just move forward with the Town Attorney. It was agreed that the Town Attorney would charge hourly. Mr. Faienza will talk to the first Selectman tomorrow to decide how to move forward. It was agreed that they would start working on the Revision using the 2003 Charter and working from the beginning as a clean slate. They are hoping to get it done quickly so it can be voted on in November. Mr. Maley reminded them that public hearings would need to be scheduled for review and input. They agreed to hold meetings starting at 7:00pm on the following dates:
Thursday, May 5, 2011
Thursday, May 12, 2011
Thursday, May 19, 2011

Frank Seidl asked if they could allow 15 minutes at the beginning of each meeting for public comments. He thought they could limit each person to 2 minutes. There was discussion on this and they all agreed it was a good idea but did not think it was necessary to put a time limit on it. If someone was taking too much time they would reign them in to keep their comments to an appropriate time limit for the sake of keeping the meeting moving.

A **motion** was made by Frank Seidl to allow public comments at the beginning of each meeting after the approval of the minutes and was **seconded** by Carl Banic. *All were in favor, the motion was passed.*

- D. Adjournment – A **motion** was made by Carl Banic to adjourn at 7:44pm and was **seconded** by Richard Duffy. *All were in favor, the motion was passed.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Imme
Clerk