

**TOWN OF CROMWELL
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2011
7:00 P.M. TOWN HALL ROOM 222**

MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

Vincent Faienza called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Present were Vincent Faienza, Jay Polke, Carl Banic, Frank Seidl, Phil Gagnon, Richard Duffy. Ed Maley was not present.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 4, 2011

Frank Seidl **moved** to accept the minutes of the meeting on May 12, 2011 as amended. Jay Polke, Carl Banic, Frank Seidl, and Vincent Faienza want to be noted as the members who were against the eminent domain. Frank Seidl stated his name was spelled incorrectly in the minutes. Jay Polke seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Carl Banic- yes, Frank Seidl-yes, Phil Gagnon-yes, Jay Polke-yes, Vincent Faienza-yes, Rich Duffy- abstained

C. SCHEDULE FOR JUNE MEETINGS

Carl Banic **moved** to add June 2, 16, and 23 as meeting dates. Frank Seidl seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Carl Banic- yes, Frank Seidl-yes, Phil Gagnon-yes, Jay Polke-yes, Vincent Faienza-yes, Rich Duffy-yes

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Barbara Coughlin, 19 Glenwood Terrace – Thanks the commission for the comments on eminent domain. She wanted to discuss the subject of a Finance Board with a Town Council. She feels that the public and the Finance Board need to know that both can exist. Mrs. Coughlin wanted to know who the third firm the commission is considering would be for a quote. Mr. Faienza stated that the bidding process happens after the approval of money.

E. NEW BUSINESS

Section 2 – Rich Duffy presented his ideas on the position of Mayor. He believes it should be a two year term. He feels that the number of council members needs to be increased if the Board of Finance is eliminated. Rich Duffy suggested that a search firm be used to hire the Town Manager. He feels that the Town Manager and Town Council should determine together boards and commission as needed outside the charter. Rich Duffy spoke of non-budgeted appropriations. The commission felt that would be coming up in other sections. The salary of the Mayor and Council Members was discussed. It was brought up that most charters state that the Mayor and Council Members shall not receive a compensation only reimbursement for expenses. Mr. Duffy also discussed publishing of ordinances should be in summary form.

Section 5 –Phil Gagnon discussed the elected bodies. He discussed how other towns ran their boards and commissions- i.e. appointed or elected. Mr. Gagnon questioned the number of Justice of the Peace needed per charter. The commission held a brief discussion on Planning and Zoning.

Section 6 –Mr. Faienza discussed the power of referendum. This discussion will depend on if the Board of Finance is kept. Vincent Faienza feels the Capital Plan is an important program but should be a function of the Town Manager. The commission discussed capital plan and how it works. Mr. Duffy states there is no cap on emergency appropriations. The commission discussed if there was any past abused of emergency appropriations. The borrowing for emergency appropriations cannot exceed 1 % of the budget and must be paid back in the fiscal year. The commission feels this area needs to be more defined. Vincent Faienza brought up rejection of referendum. The commission discussed how fast to redo the referendum to put it back out to vote.

Section 3-Rich Duffy wanted to revisit the contract of the Town Manager. Rich proposed a 4 year contract. Rich Duffy has a few concerns about of the Town Manager- i.e. severance package, acting Town Manager, listing as a legal agent for the town.

A brief discussion was held on the past public hearings. Jay Polke felt that at the second public hearing there was a misrepresentation of the press on the six people who spoke. It was not mentioned in the paper that there were a room full of people who did not speak against a town manager possibly because the chairman had asked people not to repeat subjects already presented. In the future he would like to see a better representation in the press.

F. ADJOURNMENT

A **motion** to adjourn was made by Carl Banic at 8:45 pm. Frank Seidl seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Carl Banic- yes, Frank Seidl-yes, Phil Gagnon-yes, Jay Polke-yes, Vincent Faienza-yes, Rich Duffy-yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Kratochvil