

**TOWN OF CROMWELL
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2011
7:00 P.M. TOWN HALL ROOM 222**

MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

Vincent Faienza called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Present were Richard Duffy, Vincent Faienza, Jay Polke, Carl Banic, Frank Seidl, Phil Gagnon and Ed Maley.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 26, 2011

Frank Seidl **moved** to accept the minutes of the meeting on April 26, 2011 as amended. After a brief discussion, Phil Gagnon **moved** to amend the minutes on Page 2, second paragraph, forth sentence changing “they” to “the commission”. Carl Banic seconded the motion. **Motion carried.** Then Carl Banic **moved** to amend the motion of accepting the minutes from “Carl Banic to Frank Seidl” and the motion of seconding the minutes was by “Carl Banic not Frank Seidl”. Jay Polke seconded the motion. **Motion carried.** Carl Banic seconded the motion to accept the amended minutes. **Motion carried.**

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Barbara Coughlin, 19 Glenwood Terrace –Mrs. Coughlin was here to ask questions before next public hearing. She gave a brief history of the last charter. Barbara Coughlin stated that she has been told that the people want the politics kept out of choosing a town manager. She also stated that people want the pay of the town manager to be less than the current pay and utilize the current government more. Alice Kelly, 47 Willowbrook Road - Alice Kelly cautioned the commission to have a certain percentage of voters to have the question passed. She stated that the commission would have to work hard to get enough people out to vote. She suggested that they put something in the booth to remind people to vote on the question as a reminder as was done in the past.

D. NEW BUSINESS - Vincent Faienza distributed a proposal for legal services from Halloran and Sage LLC to the commission members. Mr. Faienza will be asking the Board of Selectmen for \$25,000 to get this charter done by the end of June. Phil Gagnon **moved** that the commission move aggressively forward to get the charter ready to vote on for the November vote. Carl Banic seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Phil Gagnon discussed the binders that were distributed to the commission members. The binders contain multiple charters from various towns. Phil Gagnon suggested assigning different sections to individual commission members. Richard Duffy agreed that dividing up the document was a good strategy. Rich will work on Sections 2 and 3. Phil will work on Sections 1 and 5. Jay Polke will work on Section 8. Frank Seidl will work on Sections 3 and 4. Vincent Faienza will work on Section 6. Carl Banic will work on Section 7. Sections 9 and 10 will remain open. Next week the commission will work on Sections 1, 3, 4, and 5. Richard Duffy will not be able to attend the next meeting.

Richard Duffy **moved** to eliminate the Board of Selectmen and create a 6-member Council plus a Mayor. The Mayor will run independently from the council. Carl Banic seconded the motion. **Motion carried 6-1-0.** Ed Maley was opposed.

Carl Banic **moved** to keep the Town Clerk elected. Phil Gagnon seconded the motion. **Motion carried.** Phil Gagnon **moved** to keep the Tax Collector elected. Jay Polke seconded the motion. **Motion carried.** Board of Education will remain elected. There will be no town treasurer. This will become a function of Finance.

The commission discussed adding 2 members to the Council, eliminating the Board Of Finance and having a town meeting. Carl Banic **moved** to keep the Board of Finance. Frank Seidl seconded the motion. There was a discussion held by the commission on this subject. Carl Banic **moved** to table the motion. Frank Seidl seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

There was a brief discussion on Board of Assessment Appeals. Richard Duffy **moved** to keep the Board of Assessment Appeals elected positions. Jay Polke seconded the motion. **Motion carried.** The Charter Revision Commission discussed the Capital Expenditures Commission. Several members felt this function belonged to the Town Manager. Jay Polke **moved** to eliminate the Capital Expenditures Commission. Rich Duffy seconded the motion. **Motion carried 5-2-0.** Ed Maley and Carl Banic were opposed.

Rich Duffy **moved** to keep the Conservation Commission. Carl Banic seconded the motion. **Motion carried.** Phil Gagnon **moved** to keep the Economic Development Commission. Jay Polke seconded the motion. There was a brief discussion on how two council members could be part of this commission to make the commission more effective. **Motion carried.** Frank **moved** to add Senior Services Commission. Carl Banic seconded the motion. **Motion carried.** Carl Banic **moved** to keep IWWA. Frank Seidl seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

E. ADJOURNMENT

A **motion** to adjourn was made by Carl Banic at 8:54 pm. Jay Polke seconded the motion. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Kratochvil