

To the Charter Commission Members,

Myself and many others appreciate the monumental amount of time and effort you are spending on trying to create our new town manager-form of government . You deserve a lot of credit for taking on this over-whelming project in such a short period of time. It has been known that people do their best work with limited time and money. Your obvious goal is to develop a descriptive, constructive, updated and unambiguous quality town charter that will serve and benefit our local government and its people for years to come.

Please consider re-evaluating and rescinding your vote on such a critical issues as I am bringing forth in this letter. This is the opportune time to make these improved changes. These changes will not risk passage by the voters, they will endorse them. The people had enough "politics as usual" and want accountability for their tax dollars.

This new charter is an opportunity for the ~~elected positions of the town clerk and the tax collector to become employed positions.~~ The new manager will be fully responsible for over seeing the day to day functions and activity of all department heads and employees. The elected positions are exempt from this process.

To be more explicit, they cannot and are not held to any standards, responsible or accountable for their actions or behavior, or even to be investigated, (i.e. Senator Drive issue!). As elected positions they do not come under any town rules, and are not required to report or respond to any authoritative person (s). They make their own determination of when, how often and how long at any given time for vacations. Sick days, personal days, funeral days, coming in later, going home early, taking long weekends (Fridays off-Mondays off) etc. they are not required to get approval for a short or long term leave of absence (L.O.A., for example to go to school part-time or full-time, we've had that happen! They also earn pension time in the town's pension plan and medical benefits. These are high-paid position and WE need accountability. By not making these paid position it will be a hindrance and make it a more difficult job for a town-manager to control town hall, which we desperately need.. There is a lot of support for these changes..

Who ever wins the elected positions can be hired at the same time as the town manager will be. Please give serious consideration and take advantage of this opportunity.

~~With a manager/council form of government there is no logical reason to carry over an elected board of finance.~~ It is redundant and in some instances a few members have exhibited a political attitude, and that will continue to be a disservice to the town needs. A select few people will try and convince you that the board is indispensable and claim that it serves as a "check and balance " board. I adamantly disagree with that philosophy. Our tax dollars are being "used and abused" and in some circumstances are allocated on improper expenditures.

The Capital Nonrecurring appropriations and expenditures are mandated in the statutes in chapter 108 "Municipal Reserve Fund", Section 7-359 - 368 and are to be approved by the "legislative body" - town meeting voters (as defined by statute section 7-193). Chapter 108

clearly states that the CNR expenditures shall be restricted to the financing in all or part of the physical improvements, construction, reconstruct in or acquisition of any specific item or equipment, materials and supplies of a capital nature. Charter section 1003 requires the board of selectman to included these expenditures in the proposed budget, and foreword their request to the board of finance for approval, then submit the approved annual budget, including the CNR request, for approval by the legislative body (town meeting). Chapter six (6) of the charter also requires town meeting approval.

Once the budget is passed, the board arbitrarily makes the sole decision for the capital nonrecurring expenditures.

The fund is improperly spent by advancing DWI grant money for the police department. Craig Minor never had initial approval by the board of selectmen to spend an additional 6,800.00 on a consultant concerning the P&Z regulations. The board of finance asked no questions and gave approval out of the CNR account. These are examples of improper spending out of the capital fund. Not permitted under Section 7-364 of the Statutes.

First Selectman Flanders, without following the Charter mandated provisions or approval, took out over 200,000 out of the Public Works account to rebuild Cider Hill private Rd. That money was earmarked and approved for town roads. He used eleven (11) contractors and never went out to bid as required by the towns policy! The board took no formal actions and looked the other way on that illegal expenditure. You call that a check and balance?? I don't think so!!

We are and have been over the 1% supplemental expenditures under charter section 603, and no town meeting approval. Again, no check and balance!

The board of finance circumvents the legal process and that is deceptive..By doing so, that does not provide the voters (legislative body) with a meaningful participation in the annual budget process.

CNR monies is tax payes left over tax-dollars returned to the general fund. (cookie jar). The voters have a right to be apprised of its use and vote on its approval.

Chairman Enzo requested necessary money to hire a consultant lawyer in order to proof read and facilitate the completion of our new charter and meet its goals and deadline. Mr Maley serves as the chairman of the board of finance , as well as member of your charter

commission. Mr Maley knowingly, that he was in a "conflict of interest" position, should have disqualified himself (under statute Sec 7-340a) from voting on the request. By doing so, he would have had to appoint a democrat alternate for his replacement. Instead, Mr Maley took the voting position to abstain, which of course he knew that was the same as voting no. Consequently as you all well know, no money was approved! Mr Maley has made it a known fact that he does not want a new form of government. Well, hes only one person!! The fact that Mr Maley isn't interested and some what hostile, he should give serious consideration to resigning. A person that is interested and in support should finish the short time that remains. I would point out that Chairman Maleys absentions is what I call a" first class case of "dirty politics"

Please consider my suggestions for all the right reasons We may not have the opportunity for a very long time. Lets get it right. We voters will not turn this down with all the improvements by eliminating the two elected positions and turning over the board of fiance duties to the new council. We have had tooooo many hands in the cookie jar.....Respectfully, Ellie Corciullo