

**TOWN OF CROMWELL  
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2011  
7:00 P.M. TOWN HALL ROOM 224/5**

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES**

**A. CALL TO ORDER** - The public hearing opened was opened at 7:02 pm. Members from the Charter Revision Commission present were Ed Maley, Enzo Faienza, Frank Seidl, Jay Polke, Carl Banic, Phil Gagnon, and Richard Duffy.

Brief introduction was given from Chairman Ed Maley. The chairman stated he had correspondence from the Town Clerk and Tax Collector.

**B. READING OF PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE** - Cromwell, CT - Notice is hereby given that the Charter Revision Commission of the Town of Cromwell will be holding a Public Hearing on February 23, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Cromwell Town Hall, 41 West Street, Cromwell, CT, Room 224/225 for citizens comments on preliminary proposed amendments to the municipal charter. Copies of the draft amendments will be available on the town website, [www.cromwellct.com](http://www.cromwellct.com), after February 16, 2011. The notice was available for the public but not read.

**C. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dick Newton, 1 Elm Road - Mr. Newton doesn't feel "tweaking" the charter is a good idea. This is a great opportunity to correct many areas. He feels that there is little need for removing an elected official. He feels that the charter already covers that area. He feels that the standard for removal is too easy. Mr. Newton wants to know as for reasons for removal who determines the standards. He supports the Town Treasurer change and town budget going to referendum. Mr. Newton doesn't see the relationship between a Superior Court Judge and a First Selectman in relation to salary and experience. As for the Jury Commission and Town Attorney change Mr. Newton agrees with the commission. Mr. Newton feels that not enough thought has gone into a Town Manager to handle the budget the size of Cromwell's.

Ellie Corciullo - 23 Glenwood Terrace - She is looking for a Town Manager form of government. Ms. Corciullo would like the word resident added in C202. Ms. Corciullo said state statute handles filling a vacancy of an elected official. She feels removing the treasurer is wrong. It should stay for checks and balances. Ms. Corciullo feels the Legislative Body is the town meeting, therefore it should read Legislative authority. She wants to have Freedom of Information mentioned in the Executive Session Section. Public Ordinances she would like see go to town meetings. She wants C602 put back. C603 (f) make it one day less than 5 years. As for the First Selectman's salary she suggested using the same as the employees wage increase and suggested possible vacation time for first selectman.

Mertie Terry, 589 Main Street - She agrees wholeheartedly with Mr. Newton. She wants a Town Manager. Secondly, the Director of Senior Services should be recognized. She feels it is a vital part of Cromwell.

Madeleine Lowry, 22 Franklin Avenue for Mary Konopka, 24 Timber Hill Road- Ms. Lowry read a letter to the First Selectman which was sent in February 2010. The Senior Services Department with Director status needs to be included in the ordinances section of the Charter.

Jennifer Donohue, 32 Franklin Road - She is in favor of a Town Manager. She feels that Cromwell has grown to a level that a town manager is needed. She wants the commission to look at this area again. She was curious as to the thinking of this commission on the salary of the First Selectman.

Barbara Coughlin, 19 Glenwood Terrace - She looked at salaries of First Selectman and Town Managers in surrounding towns. She compared populations and salaries. Barbara stated that after checking other charters, she found that the Town Attorney are appointed by the Board of Selectman or Town Council.

Amanda Thomas, 42 Cedarland Court - She feels the citizens should determine the salary of the First Selectman. She is not comfortable with the automatic raise of the First Selectman. Ms. Thomas feels the First Selectman should recommend and the Board of Selectmen can appoint the Economic Developer and Town Attorney.

Alice Kelly, 47 Willowbrook Road - She wants to know who determines the elected official is not capable of performing their duties. She does not like the First Selectman's salary to be determined by the Superior Court Judges salary. As for Town Attorney she wants to know what happens if the Board of Selectman do not approve the Town Attorney. She feels the Town Manager position should be researched further.

Bob Jahn, 3 Woodside Road - He is concerned for the removal of the First Selectman and the compensation for the replacement First Selectman and outgoing First Selectman. In C205 Special Elections Mr. Jahn asked when do you have and when don't you have them. In Section 802A he asked how it gets to the Board of Selectman. Mr. Jahn suggested that since the town employee two attorneys that they encompass both attorneys in Section 909. In Section C1011 Contributions Mr. Jahn suggested that there is an accounting of the money reported back to the town.

Rich Waters, 84 South Street - He doesn't feel that the First Selectman needs any more power.

Al Koch, 39 Elm Road - Mr. Koch feels the town attorney provision should be left alone. He wants the commission to revisit a Town Manager decision.

Dick Newton - page 14 - section c 913 should be 912. Under Director of Economic and Community Development, Mr. Newton questions the meaning of some of wording.

Barbara Coughlin - Under Director of Economic and Community Development, she questions whether this is a full time position and whether this position would have an office in town. She would like clarification. Ms. Coughlin is concerned that once this position is in the charter it is then mandated.

Alice Kelly - Is the commission going to recommend to the Board of Selectman to vote separately on different issues or sections of the Charter Revision?

Ellie Corciullo - BOS has to adopt the revisions. The draft copy has revisions to be effective 12/1/2011. Ms. Corciullo questioned the date.

**D. CLOSE OF PUBLIC HEARING** - The public hearing was closed at 8:25 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Kratochvil  
Recording Secretary