

TOWN OF CROMWELL  
PUBLIC HEARING  
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION  
JULY 19, 2011 AT 7 PM  
TOWN HALL ROOM 224/225

MINUTES

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Vincent Faienza made a few comments to the public and introduced the commission to the public.

- B. READING OF PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE** - Cromwell, CT -Notice is hereby given that the Cromwell Charter Revision Commission, pursuant to the requirements of Section the proposed revisions to the current Charter on Tuesday, July 19, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Cromwell Town Hall, 41 West Street, Cromwell, Connecticut 06416, Room 224/5. Any person wishing to make any accommodations is invited to speak at this hearing.

A motion was made by Carl Banic to open the public hearing at 7:00 pm. The motion was seconded by Phil Gagnon. Unanimously approved. **Motion carried.**

**C. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ellie Corciullo 23 Glenwood Terrace - Ellie stated she will email her comments to the commission. She does have a few concerns. She feels the conflict of interest is the same, still financial. There are other areas of conflict. She suggested a firm of attorneys instead of just one attorney.

Eric Ranney 9 Wexford Lane - Town of Cromwell is need of professional management. He is in favor of Town Manager. He questioned if the Town Council would approve the budget.

Martha Ranney 9 Wexford Lane - She believes in representative government. She believes in professional government and supports the Town Manager form of government.

Anthony Salvatore 4 Ledge Road He commends the commission. He has a few concerns. He feels there are a few conflicts under Section 2.07. He has concerns about Job Qualifications. He discussed the inconsistencies with removal and appointments. He again asked the commission to reconsider Proposal A about the Police Commission he previously submitted to the Charter Revision for review.

Darlene DiProto 3 Oak Road - Town Council consists of a 7 member board including the mayor. She feels it needs to be clarified for minority representation. The

printing of the ordinances are currently printed by the Administrative Assistant not town clerk. Board of Finance currently has 3 alternant, she ask the Charter Review do they still want them? Regarding the annual budget registered voters can vote but questioned if the commission really wanted to do that even though state statute allows for electors to vote on the annual budget. Mrs. DiProto also pointed out the salaries of the assistants and deputies of town clerk are by union contract. Mrs. DiProto will email the Chairman all her concerns.

Sam DiProto 3 Oak Road - Mr. DiProto spoke on the Police Commission. His opinion is that a police commission is not needed if a town manager is in place.

Tim Griffin 95 Willowbrook Road - He feels it is time for a change in government.

Charlie Epstein 19 Crest Dr. - Mr. Epstein would like to know what the bottom line would cost to have a town manager. He suggested maybe we could get better candidates if we paid better.

John Flanders 57 Washington Road - He is opposed to this form of proposed government. He feels we need to have people with the correct expertise in position to lead. Do not take away the peoples right to choose. He feels that there is this misconception that if there is a town manager that nothing will go wrong. He stated there are going to be good and bad people in positions. Mr. Flanders then had several comments on the charter itself such as qualifications to serve on a board, bonded debt, public works taking care of the Board of Education, conflict of interest, and supplemental appropriations.

Bob John 3 Woodside Road - He asked if anyone could be appointed to mayor. Mr. Jahn questioned if the town manager could vote. He is in favor of eliminating the police commission. He believes there is duplication. Mr. Jahn would like capital and non-recurring fund to be proposed at the same time as the budget. Justice of the Peace and Registrar of Voters are every four years not two.

Barbara Coughlin 19 Glenwood Terrace - She has attended many of the commission meetings. She feels the hiring and firing of employees is confusing. She feels it should be consistent. She feels there should be more said about the qualification of the Town Manager.

Ann Halibozek 7 Christian Hill Road - She wants to clarify the newspaper articles. She mentioned "tweaking" and only six people speaking at the last public hearing. She also addressed a few previous speakers.

Joyce Norman 36 Elm Road - She feels the Board of Selectmen form of government is passé. She discussed that job reviews need to be done annually. She feels it is long overdue to change the charter.

Dick Newton 1 Elm Road - He feels it is not the job of the Town Council to determine the additional standards of conduct in Section 2.08. Presently a quorum is 4 members now the charter is calling for 5 members. He questioned if the commission really wanted that. Again he spoke on the department heads appointing and firing. He recommends that the Police Commission be eliminated. He feels the Town Council can handle those functions. Under Director of Economic and Community Development it says town manager "shall" ... imply that the town has to have one. Town council has responsibility in the budget. He does not like that. He would like to see the Board of Finance eliminated. He feels the tax collector and town clerk should be appointed positions.

Kenneth Going 142 Shunpike Road - He is disturbed with the publicity Cromwell has received. He still believes in the Board of Selectmen form of government. He feels the commission should review it more before presenting it to the public.

Shirley Banic Board of Education 46 Geer St - Presently the Board of Education is required to present their budget no later than March. Under the new charter the Board of Education must present the budget no later than first of March. That is three weeks early. Much of the information is not available. Referendum date has not changed so why has presentation date changed?

Danny Brandt 9 Hawthorne Ct. - He called a friend who was a Mayor in South Windsor. He stated that it keeps the politics out of running the town. He is in favor of town manager.

Mertie Terry 589 Main St - She supports a town manager. She thanked the commission for their work.

Eileen Branciforte 2 Court Place - She is undecided for which form of government. She stated she did work for a town manager in Rocky Hill. She stated that you need to think of more than the bottom line but your work is not done. She is concern for the homeless of Cromwell.

Rebecca Lucht 83 Washington Road - The town has grown too much to continue with a Board of Selectmen form of government. She supports a town manager form of government.

Cynthia Marchinkoski 122 Coles Road - She is in favor of a Town manager form of government.

Jay LeBlanc 3 Cedar Drive - He supports a town manager form of government. He feels the town is a multi-million dollar business and needs a pro active approach. He suggests taking the questions and concerns of tonight and incorporating them into the charter. He would like to see the work of the commission more transparent. He believes if having a town manager he/she should be a strong town manager. He questions where the accounting audit results would be sent. He would like

consistency in the termination of the town manager. He feels that the removal of the department of heads ties the hands of the town manager and would like the commission to reconsider. He would like the Town manager to delegate a department head to run a department. He questioned how the actions of the boards and commission will bind the town manager. Mr. LeBlanc would like the town clerk and tax collector under the town manager. He would like to see the Town Managers qualifications more defined.

Madeleine Lowry 22 Franklin Avenue- Ms. Lowry is in favor of a town manager.

John Croasdale 4 Bellevue Terrace - He is not in favor of a town manager. He feels it will add personnel and a town manager costs money. He questioned what the controls you are putting on these people are.

Ellie Corciullo 26 Glenwood Terrace - She stated that if it is broke then it is time to fix it.

Anthony Salvatore 4 Ledge Road - Under contributions he feels the limit of \$500 is very low. He feels it should be increased.

Mike Gengler 5 Forest Road - His concern is the Town Council is not approving the budget.

Mario Hasz 4 Grace Lane - He spoke on the Police Commission.

Allan Waters 86 South St - He is concerned about the cost of a town manager. He feels the taxpayers will want to know before voting.

Charlie Epstein 19 Crest Drive - He would also like to know how much the search company will cost.

Shirley Banic 46 Geer St -Thank you for all the work you do.

The chairman asked for a show of hands for and against a town manager. Ed Maley objected to the show of hands. The chairman acknowledged is objection.

Carl Banic moved to close the public hearing at 8:50 pm. Phil Gagnon seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Kratochvil  
Recording Secretary