

SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING
December 6, 2011

Present: John Quinn
 Bob Bancroft

Ira Allen
Nanette Rogers

The meeting was delayed due to technical problems. Bob Bancroft called the meeting to order at approximately 7:15 p.m. Approximately 32 residents were present.

The Selectboard reviewed the major changes made to the draft since the meeting in October. Some of the changes were: the auditors will remain elected, a committee will be created for soliciting and recommending candidates to the Selectboard for the Treasurer and Delinquent Tax Collector positions, added language for an outside audit, and replaced the entire Conflict of Interest section. The Selectboard then reviewed what a Charter is and the general reasons why the Town is proposing a Charter.

Barb Peck asked what the language in 2(b) of Section 2 means and if it gives the Selectboard more authority to enact ordinances. The Board explained they already have the authority but are unsure if it gives more authority or less authority. The Board will look into it.

A resident stated that appointed positions should be included in the recall provision.

Harry Montague asked if the school is part of the charter. The Board advised it is not. Harry feels it should be.

A request was made for a projection of expenses the Town will incur if the Charter is approved. The Board will look into this for the first public hearing.

It was suggested that residents be considered before non-residents for appointed positions.

A comment was made that the Charter could include a provision stating the Treasurer will be beholden to the Selectboard.

A request was made that an accumulated cost in legal fees to be available for the first public hearing.

A comment was made stating the residents selected for the committee should not be related to a Selectboard member.

Paul Birnholz thinks the Conflict of Interest section should revert back to the original language or section 7(a)(2) should be expanded to include the word matter.

A request was made to send a letter to residents stating the Selectboard is unaware of any fraud or embezzlement activities, as well as the reasons why the Board is proposing a Charter.

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The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert L. Bancroft, Chair
Westford Selectboard

Nanette Rogers
Town Clerk