

AGENDA FOR THE JANUARY 17 MEETING OF THE WESTON CHARTER
REVISION COMMISSION

Item 1 – Approval of the Minutes of the January 4 Meeting

Item 2 – Complete our discussion of Article 8. This discussion will include an analysis of the following Sections:

Section 8.7(c) requires, in order to transfer excess funds from one purpose to another within that same agency (other than the Board of Education), the approvals of the First Selectman, the Board of Selectmen and The Board of Finance.

Question: Are all these approvals necessary?

Section 8.7(d) requires those same approvals to transfer funds from one agency to another.

Question: Same as above, are these approvals necessary?

Section 8.7(e) provides that appropriations for construction or other permanent improvements lapse if three fiscal years have elapsed without any expenditure from that appropriation.

Question: Assuming this is the appropriate standard, the last sentence of Section 8.7(e) is confusing, because it requires any UNEXPENDED amounts to lapse, but Section 8.7(e) is only applicable if NO expenditures have been made. Also, it is not clear when appropriations lapse if an appropriation is made mid-year. Finally, the provision doesn't specify that this three-year period be consecutive years.

Section 8.9. Section 8.9 provides that the Town cannot make any contributions without the approval of the First Selectman, the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance.

Question: How does this provision work in the case of a budgeted contribution? How has it operated in practice?

Item 3 – Discussion of items that require additional analysis. This discussion will include a discussion of the following items:

Section 8.7(a) and (c). Section 8.7(a) currently provides that all purchases by the Library (other than for books and periodicals), must be made through the First Selectman. Section 8.7(c) provides that no Town agency, other than the Board of Education, may transfer funds set aside in the budget for one purpose to another purpose. In discussions with the Commission, the Chair of the Library Board has expressed the view that Connecticut State Law provides the Library Board with the autonomy to make any

purchase or reallocate funds from one purpose to another without input or approval from the First Selectman.

Question: Does State Law mandate that the Charter be amended to broaden the Library Board's authority?

Section 7.1. Section 7.1 provides that the Board of Selectmen must make appointments to the Town's appointed boards within 30 days after the Tuesday next following the date of its election.

Question: Since it is very difficult to make all the necessary appointments within the 30-day period, should that period be expanded, and if so, how far?

Section 10.1. Section 10.1 provides that, by January 1, each Board or Commission must elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Question: If the 30-day appointment period is extended, does it follow that the January 1 deadline should be extended as well, to avoid disenfranchising new members of appointed boards?

Item 4 – Any other business of the Commission.