

DRAFT – NOT ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION
December 8, 2011

MINUTES

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
December 7, 2011
Town Hall Meeting Room

A meeting of the Charter Revision Commission was held on December 7, 2011 in the Weston Town Hall Meeting Room. Present were Woody Bliss, Richard A. Bochinski, Nina Daniel, Arne de Keijzer, Kenneth C. Edgar, Jr. , Susan Moch and Dennis H. Tracey, III.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM.

After discussion, motions were made by Mr. Bochinski to approve the minutes of the November 2 and 16th meetings as submitted in draft form. There being no further discussion the minutes were approved as submitted. Approval was unanimous, except that Ms. Moch abstained from both votes and Mr. Tracey abstained from the vote concerning the November 16 minutes.

The meeting next heard from Ms. Daniel and Mr. de Keijzer regarding additional research they performed on the topic of whether the Town Clerk and Tax Collector should be appointed or elected officials. Ms. Daniel reported on her conversations with officials and former officials from the Towns of Wilton, Easton and New Canaan. The general consensus of these officials was that there needed to be an emphasis on professionalism in both positions, which tended to favor appointed vs. elected positions, because of the deeper pool of talent that would be available. Those towns that already had appointed Town Clerks and Tax Collectors generally expressed satisfaction with the performance of their officials appointed to these positions. Ms. Daniel noted, however, that in Easton two attempts were made to change the positions to appointed positions, and in both cases the voters rejected these proposed changes. She also cited a letter from the former First Selectman of Easton opposing the change from elected to appointed positions. Finally, Ms. Daniel cited statistics indicating that the majority of both Town Clerks and Tax Collectors were elected, although the majority was more significant in the case of Town Clerk (125-44) than Tax Collector (88-81).

Mr. de Keijzer reported on his conversations with officials from the towns of Woodbridge and East Ganby. Both of these towns have appointed Town Clerks and both expressed satisfaction with their systems and the performance of these officials.

After further discussion of this matter, the Committee turned to Mr. Edgar's report on the history of the budget process in Weston and his report on how other towns determine

their budgets, particularly those towns that the Commission has specifically chosen for comparative purposes. Finally, Mr. Edgar outlined a series of questions that the Commission should consider in making its recommendations regarding the Town budget. A copy of Mr. Edgar's presentation is appended to these minutes.

Mr. Tracey then discussed with the Commission the potential legal constraints on the Commission's ability to structure a new budget process for the Town. A copy of Mr. Tracey's presentation is appended to these minutes as well.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Kenneth C. Edgar, Jr., Co- Chair