

1. Pledge of allegiance
2. Role call – 7:03PM
3. All present
4. Consent of Agenda
 - a. Motion – Richard Fitzgerald
 - b. Second – David Whitney
 - c. 9-0
5. David Hale addresses commission
 - a. Questions the need for a department head meeting.
6. Robert Ring addresses commission
 - a. He is curious about the standards placed on department heads in the charter.
7. Review of 3-3-09 minutes
 - a. Make an addition and add what Joseph Mastarlez stated.
 - b. Eric Duda will review the recording and make the addition.
8. Motion to accept minutes with changes
 - a. Motion - Richard Fitzgerald
 - b. Second - Joseph Mastalerz
 - c. 8-0-1
9. May 9th meeting
 - a. Commission prefers to host it in the Pathfinder Cafeteria.
 - b. Motion to use cafeteria – Richard Fitzgerald
 - c. Second – David Whitney
 - d. 9-0
 - e. Eric Duda will look into serving refreshments.
10. Upcoming meeting dates
 - a. 4/28/09 and 5/9/09

11. Review of the brochure explaining the four types of government

- a. Motion to accept brochure as is
- b. Motion – Richard Fitzgerald
- c. Second – Charles Abbate

12. Department head meeting

- a. Paul Burns read a possible invitation wording
- b. Discussion
- c. To be sent from the Charter Commission.
- d. Tom Pajak states that he fears some officials might be intimidated with Town Councilors present on the commission.

13. Motion to accept letter and send it from the commission

- a. Motion – David Whitney
- b. Second – Richard Fitzgerald

14. M-PACT

- a. Could we just leave a camera stationary?
- b. Discussion.
- c. Charles Abbate wants to ask Palmer High School to man the camera.
- d. Paul Burns states that we can use the equipment but they will not supply man power.

15. Town Manager and Town Council form of government – floor opened for discussion

16. Robert Frydryk addresses commission

- a. Didn't vote for the town council form of government, however, he now couldn't imagine going back.
- b. They have been very responsive with hiring, firing, discipline and budgets.
- c. Would like to see some charter change like a better separation between legislative and executive.
- d. Thinks town manager should have more job assurance.

17. Pat Donovan addresses commission

- a. Likes the town council she thinks it seems to work well.
- b. People may just not be using their voice.

18. Gordon Christianson addresses commission

- a. We should not consider reverting from town manager to selectman.
- b. Only a hand full of people came to town meetings.
- c. The selectman really have no expertise.
- d. Wants the commission to give all options an honest look.

19. Tom Pajak addresses commission

- a. He has seen cuts to the elderly, veterans and recreation department.
- b. Doesn't feel these things would happen in a town meeting, people would stand up.
- c. It bugs him that nine people are making the decisions for the entire town, they are the chosen few.
- d. He mentions problems like the sewer debate last fall and the override. Three Rivers D.P.W. had \$500k to work with.
 - i. Richard Fitzgerald clarifies some comments regarding veteran funds- The state will pick up the slack if the town votes down the veteran funding. Also notes that the sewer funding is separate money, 65% sewer and 35% veterans.

20. David Whitney

- a. The town council members are the chosen few because they were elected.
 - i. Tom Pajak mentions that the library is a pet project for some that now needs funding.
- b. David Whitney notes that the library was approved at a town meeting.

21. Michael Ryan addresses the commission

- a. He is reiterating the previous letter he wrote (submitted).
- b. Wants all at large councilors.

- c. Believes the council should have only seven members.
- d. Wants us to look at Watertown and Franklin, they have an elected town council president and town administrator.
- e. Wants to know what the format will be for the upcoming charter review
 - i. Paul Burns – the commission will determine the review format

22. David Hale addresses commission

- a. States that his group may not have won, but charter change did win.

23. Iris Cardin addresses commission

- a. She wants to compare people input ability at town meeting with town council meetings.
- b. She thinks the town meetings had much more support than the town council meetings.

24. Michael Magiera addresses commission

- a. It's not fair to compare the attendance at the town council meetings to town meetings because not all issues are being addressed at once.

25. Robert Haveles addresses commission

- a. He favors the town council form of government because it's responsive.
- b. He thinks the charter does need some changes.

26. Charles Abbate

- a. He notes that the charter vote lost the first time around and won the second time.

27. Ray Domey

- a. He states that the first vote was not a small margin.
- b. He notes that with a representative town government a meeting could be held with as little as seven day notice.
- c. He went to a representative on the town council two years ago and they were not useful at all.
- d. He got a petition because he couldn't get a by-law enforced. He says the laws are selectively enforced.

- e. There is lots of suspicion with what is happening at town council meetings.

28. David Whitney

- a. He has been on the town council for one and a half years and there has only been two executive session meetings.

29. Richard Fitzgerald

- a. He favored the town council form of government.
- b. The town charter is sound but needs some changes.
- c. Looking from the Palmer C.E.O. perspective – the town council has its advantages.
- d. There have been times when people would not have had results without a town manager.
- e. He worked with FEMA when he was town manager and this would have been tough for a selectboard.
- f. This is a \$35 million corporation and we need to decide how it will be run.

30. Joseph Mastalerz

- a. Who carries out the charter?
 - i. Richard Fitzgerald – the town council and town manager.
 - ii. The original charter did not have a timeline.
- b. Prior to the charter vote, meetings were held with powerpoint slides, etc. People voted based on what they were told.
- c. The town manager should carry out the charter, but doesn't.
- d. The economy was good the first couple years of the charter, but money was still tight.
 - i. Richard Fitzgerald – there wasn't a lot of money at the time.

31. David Whitney

- a. He made the powerpoint and thought it was good and in the best interest of the town.
- b. The town council should review/revise the budget.
- c. The town council should do what's best for the town.

- d. When he helped write the charter, he was in no way an expert charter writer.

32. Paul Wisnewski

- a. Richard Fitzgerald did a great job as the town manager.
- b. He did not uphold some guidelines.
 - i. Number one was to get the D.P.W. head.
- c. The amount of money being offered was a small amount to get professionals.
- d. The town council attendance overwhelms the town meeting attendance.
- e. He thought the last budget process went smoothly especially compared to other towns.

33. Iris Cardin addresses commission

- a. She was appalled by the town manager firing and didn't know the particulars.
 - i. Richard Fitzgerald - states that the firing was within the law and he chose for the executive session.
- b. The town council is the town managers boss.

34. David Whitney

- a. When he attended the town meetings he was expected to read the entire budget at the meeting.
- b. As a town councilor, he has months to review the budget.

35. Paul Burns

- a. We learn from our mistakes. He thinks the charter has some mistakes and needs some changes (i.e. set dates, etc.).
- b. He thinks silence lends some consent.

36. John Sasur addresses commission

- a. The country has about 36,000 cities and towns and only 1,300 have town meeting form of government.
- b. The town council form of government encourages progress and most prosperous towns don't run on town meeting forms of government.

37. Gordon Cristianson addresses commission

- a. The voters want the form of government reviewed and they expect a fair review.

38. John Dinuovo addresses commission

- a. He loved the town meetings and went to them all, there was great debate.
- b. He was the moderator and 135 people attended the last meeting.
- c. People stopped questioning things with time.
- d. He voted against the change in government but now is unsure what's better.

39. Michael Magiera addresses commission

- a. The last town meeting didn't even have a quorum.

40. Robert Haveless addresses commission

- a. Demands change as time goes on.
- b. He would rather have decisions made by the town council than at town meetings.
- c. Sometimes the town council didn't listen to the people.

41. Charles Abbate

- a. He never made an uninformed vote at a town meeting.
- b. He questions why the treasurer was removed from office and changed from an elected position to an appointed position.
- c. If there were selectman today they would need an administrator.
- d. He questions why other area towns have not adopted a town council form of government.

42. Ray Domey

- a. There are 52 towns with town council forms of government in the state and 299 with the town meeting form.

43. Tom Pajak addresses commission

- a. Palmer is a great town and it was built with selectman and town meetings.

- b. Look at some C.E.O.'s with credentials and look at what they have done (i.e. George W. Bush).
- 44. David Hale addresses commission
 - a. The people should have more input.
- 45. Hazel Howe addresses commission
 - a. She didn't vote for this form of government.
 - b. She has an interest and will be present for now on.
- 46. Charles Abbate
 - a. Hopes we all put some serious thought into this.
- 47. Ray Domey
 - a. Questions the letter submitted to the commission.
- 48. Motion to discard the email letter
 - a. Motion – Ray Domey
 - b. Eric Duda insists on discussion.
 - i. Believes letter is a public document and can't be discarded.
- 49. Motion to temporarily table the letter discussion
 - a. Motion – Richard Fitzgerald
 - b. Second – Ray Domey
 - c. 9-0
- 50. Paul Burns
 - a. He will get input from the town lawyer and town manager.
- 51. Charles Abbate
 - a. He referred a reporter from the republican to the chairman, Paul Burns referred them back.
- 52. Newspapers/reporters
 - a. It is O.K. to speak with reporters if the opinions expressed are your own.
 - b. We are not to speak on the commission's behalf.

53. Motion to adjourn at 8:43PM

- a. Motion – Richard Fitzgerald
- b. Second – David Whitney
- c. 9-0