

1. Pledge of allegiance
2. Role call – 7:01PM
 - a. All present
3. Motion to accept the agenda
 - a. Motion – David Whitney
 - b. Second – Richard Fitzgerald
 - c. Discussion
 - i. Ray Domey questions if a visitor comment period is needed
4. Motion to amend agenda - limit visitor comments (not allow comments)
 - a. Motion – Richard Fitzgerald
 - b. Second – Ray Domey
 - c. 6-3
5. Motion to accept agenda with changes
 - a. Motion - Richard Fitzgerald
 - b. Second – David Whitney
 - c. 6-3
6. Approval of minutes from 6/18/09 meeting
 - a. Change 8.F to read “people from meetings”
 - b. Motion to accept minutes with changes
 - i. Motion – Richard Fitzgerald
 - ii. Second – David Whitney
 - iii. 9-0
7. Approval of minutes from 7/1/09 meeting
 - a. Change 8.C – remove the words “has insight”
 - b. Motion to accept minutes with changes
 - i. Motion – Paul Wisnewski

- ii. Second – David Whitney
- iii. 9-0

8. Questions for Marilyn Contreas

- a. Charles Abbate – Questions if you could have two charter questions on the ballot
 - i. You cannot have two charter questions on a ballot at the same time
- b. Paul Wisnewski – If our proposal on the ballot is rejected the current form of government would remain?
 - i. Marilyn Contreas -Yes
- c. Richard Fitzgerald – Can the commission add powers or take powers away from the legislative or executive branch?
 - i. Marilyn Contreas –Yes, but the council cannot have administrative duties. They can however have oversight
- d. Charles Abbate – Wants clarification on the Attorney General ruling about two charters being on the ballot at one time. Are you 100% that two charters on the ballot at one time would be rejected?
 - i. Marilyn Contreas – Yes. The ruling can be viewed on chapter 43b, section 9.
- e. Ray Domey – Could we have a town manager, town meetings, and town selectman? Could we have a town meeting for any bylaw or ordinance and let the selectman approve budgets?
 - i. Marilyn Contreas – The legislative body needs to adopt the ordinances and adopt the budget. It's the job of the executive body to present a budget to adopt. Other boards and commissions could be elected or appointed depending on the charter. The budget must be approved a legislative body (town council or town meeting).

9. Richard Fitzgerald – Selectman are considered the executive body?

- a. Marilyn Contreas – Yes

10. Paul Wisnewski – Can the selectman abrogate the responsibilities as chief executives?

- a. Marilyn Contreas – No, the selectman must be the chief executives.

11. Paul Wisnewski – The current charter has a built in charter review in about six months. How do we work with them?
 - a. Marilyn Contreas – You are an elected body and bound by the Home Rule Act. There is a definitive timeline. Their role is to take the current charter and make any suggestions for improvement. They can't change anything, their only making a recommendation. Chapter 43b, section 10 outlines what changes require a charter commission.
 - b. The charter review committee appointed by the Town Council will simply make a recommendation for change.
12. Joseph Mastalerz – If we make a recommendations and the charter review committee makes a recommendation that completely different, which stands?
 - a. Marilyn Contreas – The elected Charter Commission decides on the document that will be on a ballot vote. The review committee recommendations are not required to be acted upon, the Town Council will determine what recommendations will be implemented.
13. Charles Abbate – Does our recommendations appear on the ballot the way we present them?
 - a. Marilyn Contreas – Yes. The Town Council has no authority to change the presented document presented by the elected Charter Commission.
14. Raymond Domey – The appointed Town Council review seems useless because the Town Council could reject the recommendations. They could have the greatest ideas in the world and the Town Council could reject them.
 - a. Marilyn Contreas – The elected Charter Commission could change this issue. The current charter could read that the recommendations of the charter review be put on a ballot for vote. Only by a 2/3 vote of the legislative body can the charter be amended.
15. David Whitney – The charter could be rewritten and the internal review could be removed. The only charter commission could be elected.
16. Marilyn Contreas – One town in MA has a charter enforcement committee that's sole purpose is to ensure the charter is being followed.
17. Paul Burns – A 2/3 vote of the legislative body is more likely to happen on a Town Council than at a Town Meeting.
18. Eric Duda – Are we on track time wise with the place we're currently at with this charter revision.

- a. Marilyn Contreas - You're not down to the wire on a timeline. There is already a document that can be used as a starting point. It's not a blank page. One town wrote the charter in the last month before the vote.
 - b. Discussion
19. Eric Duda – If we voted to make a drastic change like eliminate the Town Manager and revert to selectman, would the town be out the money that was contractually agreed upon?
- a. Marilyn Contreas – The agreements made in contracts with the town would be binding.
20. Charles Abbate – Currently we have a town administrator and school superintendent that don't reside in the state. Is residency often required in charters?
- a. Marilyn Contreas – No, but some communities require officials to move to town within a 12 month period or something like that. Residency can limit the number of candidates. Your charter could make residency a requirement, but not for the superintendent of schools, this is the school committee's authority.
21. Raymond Domey – There is talk that there was a past problem with special interest groups at open town meetings, is this common in other towns?
- a. Marilyn Contreas - It really depends on the town. Some have great turnouts, others don't.
22. Paul Burns opens the floor for form of government discussion
- a. Eric Duda – perhaps we could all come up with some ideas and options and present them to each other.
 - b. Paul Burns – The longer we wait and discuss things the less time we will have to make changes to the charter.
 - c. Richard Fitzgerald – Whatever form we pick, there will be some significant time needed to rework the charter.
 - d. David Whitney – We need to pick a direction fairly soon.
 - e. Charles Abbate – If we decide to pursue a town meeting form of government and it's rejected by the voters, there will be no change.
 - f. Discussion
23. Motion – Accept the Town Manager and Town Council form of government.
- a. Motion -Richard Fitzgerald

- b. Second - Paul Wisnewski
- c. Discussion
- d. Role Call Vote – (7-2)
 - i. Richard Fitzgerald – Yes
 - ii. David Whitney – Yes
 - iii. Raymond Domey – No
 - iv. Eric Duda – Yes
 - v. Mike Pajak – No
 - vi. Paul Wisnewski – Yes
 - vii. Paul Burns - Yes
 - viii. Charles Abbate – Yes
 - ix. Joseph Mastalerz – Yes

24. Motion for Adjournment at 8:01PM

- a. Motion – David Whitney
- b. Second – Joseph Mastalerz
- c. 9-0