

**MEETING MINUTES CHARTER REVISION  
COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING  
AUGUST 15, 2024  
7:00 PM  
911 MOUNTAIN ROAD, SUFFIELD CT**

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Eric Remington, Mike Haines, Ray Dalrymple, Jeremy Lambert and Elizabeth Kaplan

**ALSO PRESENT:** Town Attorney Derek Donnelly, Permanent Building Commission Chair Kevin Goff, Former Suffield First Selectman Tom Frenaye and Former First Selectman Ed McAnaney and Selectman Kathie Harrington

**CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Remington called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and invited all to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**PERMANENT BUILDING COMMISSION, KEVIN GOFF, CHAIRMAN**

Chairman Remington explained that Kevin Goff, Chairman of the Permanent Building Commission (PBC) requested to come before the Charter Revision Commission to discuss the possibility of having them look at the charter provision as it relates to the roles and responsibilities of the PBC. Mr. Goff feels there may be a need for further clarification of the roles and responsibilities of the PBC and the Public Works Department. Chairman Remington invited Mr. Goff to address the commission. Mr. Goff provided a brief history of the PBC, the roles of the commission, how they have operated over the last 25 years and what their involvement has been with various town projects. He expressed his concerns relating to the chain of command and who the commission should report to. He spoke of current projects the commission is working on and questioned how they should move forward with them as far as recommendations and moving the projects forward. He sees the PBC as having played a supporting role over the last 25 years, however, that role appears to be changing. He explained how he viewed the roles of the Board of Selectmen the Public Works Director and the Facilities Director for the Public Schools and how the PBC can assist them. He feels they should be an advisory group as opposed to a group that actually takes care of things.

**FIRST SELECTMAN INTERVIEW – EDWARD MCANANEY**

Mr. McAnaney shared his perspective on the positions of Town Clerk, Tax Collector, and Treasurer being elected versus appointed. He provided his personal experiences during his time in office and described the challenges of managing elected officials. He feels that changing the positions would change the character of town government to more of a town council form of government. He is agreeable to keeping them as elected, however, feels there should be a “safety valve” which would allow the individuals to be removed if needed for some valid reason such as incompetence or corruption. A discussion on ethics began, with Attorney Donnelly also providing commentary. The commission members expressed their thoughts on the perspectives provided, engaged in discussion and asked numerous questions which Mr. McAnaney answered accordingly.

**FIRST SELECTMAN INTERVIEW – TOM FRENAYE**

Mr. Frenaye reminded the commission that he is related to the current town Treasurer. He spoke on the discussion earlier in the evening and cautioned them on things to consider with regard to the earlier conversation regarding the

PBC. Mr. Frenaye explained that the current way the town is organized can be confusing to both those in town government as well as to the residents in town. He provided examples for the commission to be considered and shared his personal perspective on the town government, the role of First Selectman and the authority of certain positions, commissions and committees. He talked of a First Selectman versus a Town Manager and encouraged them to keep that in the back of their minds. He encouraged the commission to get to a point where they are as unanimous as they can be as far as what they plan to present to the Board of Selectmen to avoid difficulties getting the recommendations to the voters. Mr. Frenaye feels the positions should remain elected at this point and sees no obvious reason for a change.

Extensive discussion continued among the commission members, Mr. McAnaney and Mr. Frenaye which also included Attorney Donnelly's input and legal expertise.

8:08 p.m. Chairman Remington left the meeting.

#### **DISCUSS STATUS OF THE COMMISSION'S WORK TO DATE**

Commissioner Dalrymple gave a wrap up of the work to date and discussion ensued as to how to move forward from this point.

#### **DISCUSS PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMAN ON AUGUST 21<sup>ST</sup>**

Commissioner Dalrymple provided a status update and noted that the Charter Revision Commission will present to the Board of Selectmen at their August 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. At that time they will look to request an extension for the commission to complete their work and make formal recommendations.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Annie Hornish, Thrall Avenue – Ms. Hornish gave her thoughts accountability, incompetence and corruption. She also provided brief thoughts on considerations to be made should a Town Manager form of government be entertained.

Tom Frenaye, Warnertown Road – Mr. Frenaye asked for clarification on how the process will work when the commission is ready to make recommendations.

The commission discussed setting a Special Meeting to discuss the presentation to the Board of Selectmen on August 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Haines MOTIONED and Commissioner Lambert seconded to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen O. Lambert  
Recording Secretary