

**SELECT BOARD
MINUTES**

December 27, 2017

Present: Jeanne Conner, Jeannie Jenkins, Tom Jacobs, Chair, Chad Gordon, Jim Carroll, and Donald Campbell, V. Chair. Carson Thurber arrived late.

Also present: Stuart Hurd, Town Manager, Dan Monks, Assistant Manager, Sean Marie Oller, Co-Chair Charter Review Committee, and Jim Therrien, Banner/Digger reporter.

The Chair, Tom Jacobs, called the meeting to order at 9:08 am in the Town Office Conference Room. He explained the purpose of the meeting was to accept and review the Charter Committee's Report and determine the next steps. Jim Carroll made a motion to accept the Report; Chad Gordon seconded the motion. Discussion then took place with Jim Carroll thanking the Committee for the tremendous effort. He was joined by Tom Jacobs and other members who seconded the sentiments. Sean Marie Oller indicated that she will pass on the Board's thanks to the Committee and noted that the Committee worked hard to get the Report to the Board in time for it to take action for March should it chose to do so. Jeanne Conner asked if Sean Marie thought the Committee make-up was good. Sean Marie indicated that the members came to work with open minds, no agendas, and a willingness to work. She then thanked Jim Therrien for his thoughtful coverage of the work. The motion called passed unanimously, 6 – 0. (Carson Thurber was not yet in attendance).

The Board then turned to the Committee recommendations and noted the Committee's desire to have the entire document voted in its entirety or in sections, but not parsed into separate voting times. Sean Marie outlined some of the concerns that led to this recommendation stem from such actions as the removal of Section 102, Additional Town powers, and its merge into Section 302, Additional powers of the Select Board to adopt ordinances. It would be difficult to vote those actions separately. Stuart Hurd was asked to outline the process to move forward. He indicated that a Charter change initiated by the Board and one by petition have different timing requirements making two ballot questions perhaps more confusing. The Board initiated change must be warned by January 5 with the first public hearing no sooner than 40 days and no later than 30 days before the vote. The petitioned change requires two hearings as well; the first no later than 30 days before the vote; the second within 10 days of the first hearing. Donald Campbell felt that these changes should be given a deliberative process. A vote can wait. He then made a motion to bypass the March vote and warned the changes, after a through review, for the November election. The motion was seconded by Jim Carroll. Concern was voiced for appearing to "ram this through" and not have the public weigh in. Jeannie Jenkins though that a very deliberate process had been concluded and that the only rush is to place something on the March ballot and then be able to "get the word out". Several Board members felt that waiting too long for a vote would not increase public participation and potentially lose the momentum gained by the Committee's work. After further discussion, Donald Campbell amended his motion to review the Charter changes and commit to a vote no later than the end of June 2018. Jim Carroll seconded the motion. Sean Marie indicated that the Committee will support the Board's actions regardless. The motion carried 6 – 0.

Jeanne Conner asked that a "map" be developed outlining the sections the Board will discuss over the next few meetings, so the public can attend if it desires. All agreed.

Following that, the Board voted to enter executive session to discuss a matter of litigation at 10:12 am. The Board came out of executive session. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Stuart A. Hurd", written in a cursive style.

Stuart A. Hurd