

Town of Ridgefield Charter Revision Commission (CRC)

Approved Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

Town Hall Annex Conference Room #2

These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim transcription. A video of the meeting is available on the Town's website.

Members Present: Bob Cascella, Rebecca Mucchetti, Michael Rettger, Todd Zagorec, Kim Welton, Laurie Christiansen, and Tom Larsen, Derick Schirm

Members Absent: Mike Lordi

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Mucchetti at 6:30 p.m.

2. Public Comment

No public comments.

3. Continued Discussion of Open Proposal Items

Mr. Rettger reviewed changes that he, together with Mr. Zagorec and Mr. Larsen, are proposing to the previously reviewed language for Article XI, based on feedback from the Board of Ethics, human resource staff from town, and the Board of Education. After discussion, there was a motion by Mr. Cascella to accept proposed language for Article XI, Sec 5-9, and Sec 12-4, as offered by Mr. Rettger, and as further amended at the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Schirm. Motion carried 8-0. (Tracker Item A-4*)

Mr. Cascella reviewed his proposed language to create an appointed Fire Commission, that would be separate from the Board of Selectmen. He also reviewed some changes to his initial draft he felt might be made based on some initial feedback from Commission members. Mr. Cascella said he would provide an updated draft of language before the next meeting, and would also see if he could get feedback on his proposal from the fire department leadership.

Mr. Cascella made a motion to table discussion of the topic to the next meeting. Seconded by Ms. Christiansen. Vote 8-0 in favor.

4. Discussion of Draft Report

Ms. Christiansen reviewed a draft of the report summary that she had developed. Mr. Rettger reviewed the format of an updated summary of accepted proposals. There was discussion of what the other components of the Commission's first draft report should include. The members agreed to review the suggested report summary and accepted proposals documents, and

provide comments to Mr. Rettger and Ms. Welton, who will report on suggested edits at the next meeting.

5. Communications / Planning of Future CRC Calendar

Ms. Christiansen reported that the planned date for the presentation to the League of Women Voters was no longer available at the library. Ms. Mucchetti reported that the date and room for the planned public hearing on May 20 was available but that the May 18 date was unavailable. After discussion, the members agreed to hold one public hearing on Saturday, May 20 at Town Hall, beginning at 9:30 am. Ms. Mucchetti will notice special meetings of the Commission for May 20 following completion of the public hearing and for Tuesday, May 23 at 6:30 pm, both for the Commission to review the comments from the hearing and to discuss any changes to the first draft report prior to finalizing the report for presentation to the BOS. It was also discussed to forego the LWV session due to the date conflict, but to hold open the possibility of holding an information session in the fall, after completion of the Commission's final report.

Ms. Mucchetti will cancel the currently scheduled Commission meetings in June and early July, once the report is sent to the BOS, and will schedule additional meetings for the Commission on Thursday evenings from late July into late August for the Commission to complete its deliberations following receipt of BOS feedback.

6. Action Items

Ms. Welton reviewed several action items that she felt could be closed out after the Commission's action on the Ethics proposal, and summarized the remaining open action items.

7. Old Business

Motion by Mr. Rettger to amend various sections of the Charter to change the wording from "state statutes" to "General Statutes", including a missed reference in the changes to Article XI in 3 above. Seconded by Mr. Lansen. Motion carried 8-0. (Tracker Item I-24*)

8. Minutes – review and approval

Motion to approve as amended the minutes of the April 20, 2023 meeting by Mr. Cascella, seconded by Mr. Schirm. Motion carried 8-0.

9. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 8:17 p.m. by Mr. Cascella. Seconded by Mr. Schirm. Motion carried 8 -0.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Rettger, acting Recording Secretary

* Tracker: The Change Request Tracker is a document that lists recommended changes received by the CRC.