

Town of Bourne Charter Review Committee

Meeting Minutes February 10, 2021 at 7:00 PM Zoom Meeting

Charter Review Committee Members Present: Chairman Stephen Mealy, Vice Chair Renee Gratis, Administrative Clerk Anne-Marie Siroonian, Recording Clerk Barbara Princiotta, Member Michael Carlowicz, Member Griffin Girard, Member Joseph Gordon

Also, present: Jared MacDonald, Bourne Board of Selectmen

Documents: N/A

1. **Call Public Session to Order in Open Meeting** - Chairman Mealy called to order the meeting of the Charter Review Committee at 7:00 P.M. on February 10, 2021. He announced that this Zoom meeting is being recorded and may be televised by Bourne TV at some future date. Chairman Mealy noted that anyone from the public that wished to access the meeting could do so by using the Zoom information listed on the meeting agenda and instructed the public how they could participate. Chairman Mealy noted that no one from the public had dialed into the meeting. A roll call attendance was taken, all committee members were present.

Roll call vote:

Michael Carlowicz - Present
Griffin Girard - Present
Joseph Gordon - Present
Renee Gratis - Present

Stephen Mealy - Present
Barbara Princiotta - Present
Anne-Maria Siroonian - Present

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2. **Public Comment on non-agenda items** - There was no public comment.

3. **Review and Approval of Minutes for February 2, 2021 and February 3, 2021** - Chairman Mealy asked the committee members if there were any changes or omissions to the February 2, 2021 minutes. With no further discussion, Chairman Mealy entertained a motion to approve the February 2, 2021 minutes as submitted.

Anne-Marie Siroonian moved, seconded by Renee Gratis. With no discussion, the motion carried.

Roll call vote:

Michael Carlowicz - Yes
Griffin Girard - Abstain
Joseph Gordon - Abstain
Renee Gratis - Yes

Stephen Mealy - Yes
Barbara Princiotta - Yes
Anne-Maria Siroonian - Yes

Chairman Mealy then asked the committee members if there were any changes or omissions to the February 3, 2021 minutes. With no further discussion, Chairman Mealy entertained a motion to approve the February 3, 2021 minutes as submitted.

Anne-Marie Siroonian moved, seconded by Renee Gratis. With no discussion, the motions carried unanimously.

Roll call vote:

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|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Michael Carlowicz - Yes | Stephen Mealy - Yes |
| Griffin Girard - Yes | Barbara Princiotta - Yes |
| Joseph Gordon - Yes | Anne-Maria Siroonian - Yes |
| Renee Gratis - Yes | |

4. Review Correspondence - Chairman Mealy inquired as to whether any correspondence had been received as of February 10, 2021.

Michael Carlowicz informed the committee that he received a few emails from Glenn Cannon. Mr. Cannon said he can get the survey on the Town's website on our committee page and the Selectmen page. We can also email department heads and collect responses from them.

Chairman Mealy informed the committee that an email address charter_review@townofbourne.com has been set up for our committee and would be listed on the Town's website.

5. Interview by Committee

Note: Charter references and verbiage are included for the convenience of the reader. They are intended to be excerpts rather than a full replication of each Charter section.

Jared MacDonald, Bourne Board of Selectmen - Chairman Mealy introduced Bourne Board of Selectmen, Jared MacDonald to the Committee. Mr. MacDonald's informed the committee that he has worked for in the town for 20 years in various roles, including as a police officer and selectman.

Mr. MacDonald has gone through the charter and feels there are numerous items that need to be updated, reorganized, or recreated.

Mr. MacDonald specifically addressed the strong chief language and the challenges it creates organizationally as it can hinder the entire operation of the town. He noted that the Police Chief is not a strong chief while the Fire Chief is a strong chief. Mr. MacDonald thinks the Police and Fire Chiefs should be aligned to the Police description to maintain a system of checks and balances. His preference is to eliminate the strong chief language.

Mr. MacDonald spoke about the Department of Public Works and thinks the town is behind the times compared to other towns since we do not have a "Facilities department" and recommends that one be established. He thinks having this would be a huge money saver in terms of economies of scale if we had a facilities department that serviced both the town and the schools. When addressing the sewer commissioner role, Mr. MacDonald has mixed feelings and perhaps this could fall under the new facilities department.

6. **Discussion of Public Survey** - The public survey will be discussed at the committee's 1st meeting in March.
7. **Discussion of Agenda Items for Next Scheduled Meeting** - Chairman Mealy opened the discussion for items to be addressed at the February 17, 2021 meeting. Renee Gratis coordinated an interview with Judith Froman on February 17, 2021 and another with Barry Johnson on February 24, 2021. She is also working on scheduling interviews for March. At the 1st meeting in March we will finalize the survey so it can be made available to the public. We would also discuss Anne-Marie Siroonian's write-up of our collective comments on the charter.
8. **Adjourn** - Chairman Mealy asked if there was anything else the members would like to discuss. After no discussion, Chairman Mealy entertained a motion to adjourn. Joseph Gordon moved, seconded by Renee Gratis. With no discussion, the motion carried unanimously. Roll call vote:

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|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Michael Carlowicz - Yes | Stephen Mealy - Yes |
| Griffin Girard - Yes | Barbara Princiotta - Yes |
| Joseph Gordon - Yes | Anne-Maria Siroonian - Yes |
| Renee Gratis - Yes | |

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Princiotta