

As Approved 10/24/16

## MINUTES EAST MONTPELIER CHARTER COMMITTEE

October 12, 2016

Chair Miller convened the meeting at 7:03pm. There were present: the Chair, J. Potter, R Mastelli, E Deegan, N Hill, K Watson, invited guest B Johnson, and R Brock, acting secretary.

The first matter was additions to the agenda. N Hill asked that a discussion of consulting attorneys be added. No objection.

The next matter was the minutes of September 26th. R Brock moved approval. A discussion ensued. Issue: should the minutes be more complete and identify speakers, or should they hit the highlights and not necessarily identify all speakers? There was some sentiment to have short minutes without attribution, to encourage the free flow of discussion. No action was taken on that point. The minutes were approved unanimously

The next matter was invited guest Bruce Johnson, to give his thoughts on the pending question. Mr Johnson discussed the issues at length. He prefers a charter that makes the Town Clerk (TC) and the Delinquent Tax Collector (DTC) town employees subject to the Town's personnel policies and with a job description. They should also be subject to supervision. While the statutes state the basic duties, the Selectboard can and should be able to add additional duties. It should be able to supervise these important functions. Issue: are Town employees eligible for unemployment compensation and would the Town have to pay employment taxes? With the appropriate charter language, the SB could institute policies governing the TC and the DTC in their performance of their duties.

Discussion: would the same principles suggest that the Listers and Auditors be appointed? The consensus was that this could be addressed later.

The next matter was that of interviewing interested persons. After discussion, the consensus was the Chair Miller should invite Karen Gramer/DTC, Terri Conti/exTC, and Don Welch/Treasurer. The first two to accept would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Although there was no formal motion, it became clear that the Committee is tending toward recommending the amendment of the Charter to include appointment of the TC and the DTC and to make them subject to Town personnel policies and to supervision.

The next matter was Other Business. Mr. Hill again raised the question of consulting with our attorney. He prefers that the Chair consult the Committee before doing so. There was a discussion, after which it became clear that this was the consensus of the Committee.

There was then a discussion of the progress which the Committee has made. At that point R Mastelli moved: I move that the Charter Committee, given the results of our recent research and the response we have received from the Selectboard, should work on how to change the positions of TC and DTC from elected to appointed in the form of a charter, notwithstanding that

the change in state law now allows the DTC position to be made appointive municipally. Chair Miller seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Richard Brock volunteered to do a first draft charter proposal.

The next meeting will be Oct 24 at 7pm at the Town Office.

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Richard Linton Brock  
acting secretary