

**TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE
CHARTER COMMISSION
OCTOBER 7, 2013
COUNCIL CHAMBERS (DRAFT MINUTES)**

Commissioners present:

Chair Clay Mitchell, Vice Chair Phil Nazzaro, Secretary Chris Hawkins, Bruce Hawkins, Sr., Toni Weinstein, Al Zink, John Badger, Leo Filion, Kevin Cyr

Chair Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. He proposed the following agenda: Minutes, Commissioner Filion's concerns about water/sewer districts, marketing and further changes to the Charter. The Public Hearing was dispensed with as there were no citizens present.

MINUTES

Commissioner Weinstein moved to accept the September 23, 2013 minutes. Commissioner Brice Hawkins, Sr. seconded. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously, 9 – 0.

WATER/SEWER DISTRICT

Commissioner Filion said it was debatable whether a Charter Town would be able to establish a water/sewer village district allowing only the users to vote on water/sewer warrant articles. He had spoken with Newmarket resident John Boisvert who worked for Pennichuck Water and also was on the Governor's Infrastructure Council. Mr. Boisvert felt that RSA 52 could easily be amended to include Charter Towns. Chair Mitchell had tried to contact Representative Adam Schroader, a member of the House Infrastructure Committee, to discuss his introducing the amendment. He will be invited to the next Commission meeting on October 21st, or if he cannot attend, Chair Mitchell will present the Commission's concerns. Chair Mitchell will also send emails to Newmarket's other Representatives. Commissioner Filion said the recommendation was to not include reference water/sewer districts in the Charter, but to present it as a separate Warrant Article.

FURTHER CHARTER CHANGES

There were no suggestions for further changes to the Charter. Commissioner Chris Hawkins had spoken with Town Attorney Ratigan, who had not heard back from the State Attorney General about the preliminary report and Charter amendments he had informally submitted. Both have to be formally submitted by October 30th. Attorney Ratigan will be asked to attend the October 21st meeting. In the meantime, he will be asked to group the Charter amendments by subject matter in preparation for his writing the Warrant Articles. The State has to report back to the Town by December 7, 2013, and the Town's final report is due to the State by December 31st, after which the Town has to distribute it to the townspeople.

MARKETING/EDUCATION

Along with creating a link to the clean and red-lined copies of the Charter on the Town's and Commission's web sites and Town Newsletter, it was decided that Commissioners would, in November, begin to develop a Power Point presentation and standard message that could be given to various committees and organizations in Newmarket after the beginning of 2014. Prior to the presentation, each organization could be sent a link to the

amended Charter and/or a synopsis of changes prepared by the Town Attorney. The presentation would include the process followed by the Commission, major considerations, and highlight the reasons for proposed amendments. It was decided that 2 Commissioners would present to each organization. The following organizations and committees were suggested: Town Council, perhaps for the January 8, 2014 meeting; Senior Citizens; Planning Board; Budget Committee; School Board; CIP; Newmarket employees, early in January; Newmarket Business Association; Economic Development Committee; PTA, and the Republican and Democratic Committees. The presentation would not only reach committee members, but also their audiences. The Commission also discussed the importance of making the Warrant Articles available to the voters before the March Town Meeting. In December, the grouping and wording of the Warrant Articles would be completed so that summaries could be available for January and February presentations. There had been 5 or 6 responses to the questionnaire the Commission had sent to present and past Town Councilors. Commissioner Hawkins had prepared a composite of the responses which he would distribute prior to the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Chris Hawkins moved to adjourn and Commissioner Weinstein seconded. Motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Adlington, Recording Secretary